

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

Extension
Butler County

July
2026



From the Director's Desk

This Fourth of July, Americans have an extra reason to celebrate. July 4, 2026, marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, a historic document that established our nation's commitment to liberty, opportunity, and self-governance.

As we commemorate this milestone, it is an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices, achievements, and resilience of generations of Americans who have helped shape our country. It is also a time to look ahead and consider the legacy we are creating for future generations.

The Cooperative Extension System has played an important role in strengthening communities across America for more than a century. Established through the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, Extension was created to bring research-based education from land-grant universities directly to local communities. For over 110 years, Extension has helped Americans improve agriculture, strengthen families, develop youth leadership through programs like 4-H, and address emerging community needs.

As America celebrates 250 years of independence, Extension continues its mission of empowering individuals, families, and communities through education and service. Together, we honor our nation's past while investing in a stronger future.

July also highlights the time we are investing in the future of tomorrow's youth, helping them become stronger, more resilient and leaders. The Butler County Fair will be held on July 16th – 21st at the Butler County Fairgrounds in El Dorado, KS. We hope you will make time to visit the Fair and take in all the amazing projects our 4-H youth have worked hard on.

From all of us at Extension, we wish you a safe and happy Independence Day as we celebrate 250 years of the United States of America.

Please note our office hours will change for 2 weeks in July.

Monday, July 13th through Wednesday, July 22nd, we will be open 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. This does include Saturday and Sunday. We will be closed on Thursday, July 23rd and Friday, July 24th.

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Upcoming Events

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.



Need A Speaker

Need A Speaker?

Our agents serve as knowledgeable speakers across the county, supporting a wide range of programs and community initiatives. Through strong partnerships and collaborative efforts, they help extend the reach and impact of our services. By delivering high-quality, research-based information, our agents ensure residents have access to trusted knowledge that supports informed decision-making and enhances overall community well-being.

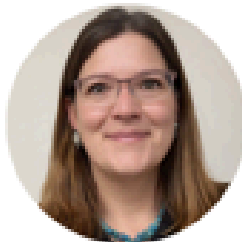
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Charlene Miller

Extension Director
Agriculture Agent



- Overview of Extension and Resources Available
- Agriculture programming
- Forage and soil testing
- Ag Lease overview
- Youth Livestock

cmmiller1@ksu.edu

Calla Edwards

Horticulture Agent



- Vegetable Gardening
- Growing Beautiful Flowers
- General Horticultural Topics
- Youth Gardening Education
- Houseplant Care
- Organic Gardening

callae@ksu.edu

Madeline Wallace

4-H Youth Development Agent



- Youth Adult Partnership
- Youth Enrichment
 - Animal Science
 - Engineering & Technology
 - Leadership & Personal Development
 - Natural Resources

mgwallac@ksu.edu

Upcoming Events




COW CAMP
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension

**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/



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.

K-STATE EXTENSION BUTLER COUNTY PARTNERS WITH LEON PUBLIC LIBRARY

**JUNE 15TH
10:00 A.M.**

Watcha Eatin - know where your food comes from and what's in it
Presenter: Charlene Miller: Ag Agent/Director

**JUNE 18TH
10:00 A.M.**

Reading Makes Sense – Session 1
Presenter: 4-H Summer Interns

**JUNE 22ND
10:00 A.M.**

Dehydration and Cool Refreshing Drinks for the Summer
Presenter Charlene Miller: Ag Agent/Director

**JUNE 25TH
10:00 A.M.**

Reading Makes Sense – Session 2
Presenter: 4-H Summer Interns

**JUNE 29TH
6:00 P.M.**

Forage Sampling for Agriculture (hay bales, native pasture)
Presenter: Charlene Miller: Ag Agent/Director

**JULY 2ND
10:00 A.M.**

Reading Makes Sense – Session 3
Presenter: 4-H Summer Interns

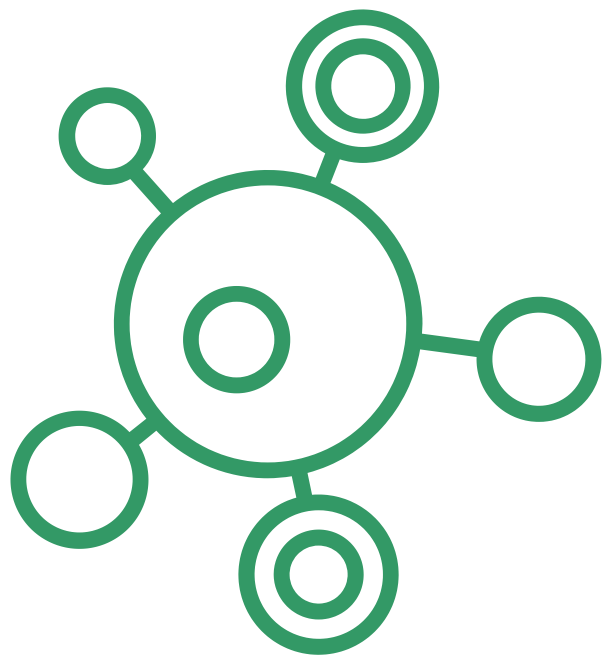
**JULY 9TH
10:00 A.M.**

Reading Makes Sense – Session 4
Presenter: 4-H Summer Interns

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Upcoming Events



LUNCH & LEARN

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

July 8th

12:15-12:45 p.m.

Andover Public Library

1511 E Central Ave

Andover, KS

July Topic:

Fall Vegetable Gardening

Fall gardening is an excellent but often overlooked gardening season. Late-season crops can extend your gardening season and provide fresh veggies into winter, depending on the crop. In many cases, fall-grown vegetables are of higher quality and better for preservation. Join us to learn what vegetables you can grow and when to plant them.

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Upcoming Events



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



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



Ag Talk

Charlene Miller

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

New World Screwworm in the US

It wasn't just a matter of if, but of when New World Screwworm (NWS) would arrive in the US. Texas and New Mexico have several cases. The good news is, the food supply is SAFE! This does not in any way affect the food supply. NWS is found in warm-blooded animals; it is not specific to cattle, although that is where the majority of cases have been found.

At the time of this writing, there are no cases in Kansas or in bordering states. For the latest information, visit [screwworm.gov](https://www.screwworm.gov) for maps of confirmed positive cases.

If you suspect you have NWS in your warm-blooded animals, contact your local veterinarian immediately.



The New World screwworm is an economic threat to livestock and wildlife that was eradicated in the United States in the 1960s and again after a reappearance in 2016. The areas infested by this pest are changing. There are concerns about a reintroduction into the United States.

This fact sheet provides livestock owners and workers with information about the biology of the New World screwworm fly, the principles of sterile insect technique, the risk of an outbreak occurring in Kansas, and what to do if there is a suspected infestation.

What is the new world screwworm?

The New World screwworm, *Cochliomyia hominivorax*, is a parasitic fly that causes myiasis, which is the invasion of living tissue by fly larvae, also called maggots. Adult flies are 1/4 inch (9.5 mm) long and have a distinctive metallic blue sheen and large orange eyes. The fly has a wide host range and targets any warm-blooded animal, including

livestock, wildlife, domestic animals, and, although less often, humans.

The adult female fly lays eggs in batches of 200 to 300 along the edges of wounds. The female fly can lay 3,000



Figure 1. Adult New World screwworm fly showing distinctive metallic color with three dark stripes on the thorax (Photo: USDA-APHIS).



Figure 2. Life cycle of New World screwworm flies (adapted from USDA APHIS drawings).

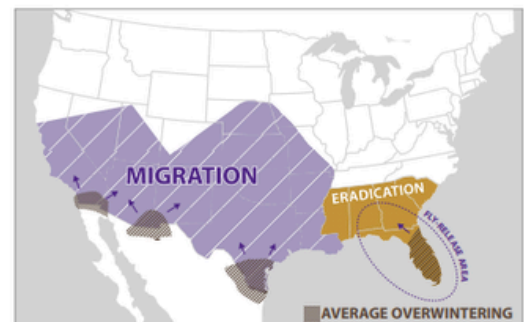


Figure 3. Map of the historic range of New World screwworms in the United States with Florida eradication sterile fly release zone shown (adapted from Knippling EF, 1960).

eggs in her lifetime. Wounds as small as a thorn prick or a tick bite can serve as an infestation site. The female may also lay eggs on intact mucosal membranes like those surrounding the eyes, nose, mouth, vulva, and prepuce. After 12 to 24 hours, eggs hatch and fly larvae burrow closely together, head down into the wound. It is this screw-like burrowing behavior that gives the fly its name.

The larval stage can take between four and 12 days, and as they develop, the wound area expands. A straw-colored (and sometimes bloody) liquid is secreted with a distinctive, putrid smell. This smell attracts more female flies to the area to lay eggs. Once larvae reach 1/4 inches (17 mm) in size, they drop to the ground and pupate below the soil. Depending on the temperature, an adult fly will emerge from the pupa after at least seven days. Infested animals may show signs of pain, lethargy, depression, and reduced appetite. They may also bite, lick, and rub the affected area.

Historic range and potential establishment of New World screwworm populations in Kansas

Before its eradication in the United States, the New World screwworm was a significant economic burden. Through active surveillance efforts and the release of sterile flies, the New World screwworm was eradicated from the United States in 1966. In 2016-17, an outbreak occurred in the Florida Keys where the New World screwworm significantly affected Key deer populations. Release of sterile flies began in October 2016, and successful eradication was declared in March 2017.

Since 2023, New World screwworm populations have spread north throughout Panama, into Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Belize, and Mexico. This expansion has raised concerns about the fly reestablishing in the United States. Up-to-date information regarding New World screwworm and outbreak surveillance can be found on the USDA-APHIS Screwworm page (www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/cattle/ticks/screwworm).

The New World screwworm is not tolerant of cold weather. Adults do not survive air temperatures below 20 degrees Fahrenheit. Larvae dropping from the host between 15 and 20 degrees Fahrenheit usually die. Pupation does not occur in dry soil when the mean average daily temperature is below 46 degrees Fahrenheit.

Historically, year-round populations were restricted to the lower quarter of Texas, southern New Mexico, Arizona, California, and parts of Florida. In areas where temperatures were too cold to support fly development over winter, annual expansions from overwintering areas occurred every spring and summer. The rate at which fly populations expand and the distance covered is dependent on several factors, including climate, availability of food, mating, and hosts. Modern outbreaks have been calculated to spread at a rate of 0.75 to 1.25 miles per day.

New World screwworms are not expected to establish year-round in Kansas or further north due to climate conditions. Currently, the primary risk of introduction into Kansas is through the movement of infested animals from outbreak

Ag Talk

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New World Screwworm in the US

regions during the spring and summer months. If the fly becomes reestablished in southern states, annual expansion into Kansas from the south may occur. As wildlife serve as hosts of the New World screwworm, wildlife contributes significantly to the spread of infection, even if domestic animal movement is restricted. Surveillance and rapid targeted sterile insect deployment through the sterile insect technique is the only successful method of control for the New World screwworm.

Control of flies through the sterile insect technique

If populations re-establish in the United States, the sterile insect technique is the only proven effective method to control fly populations. Female New World screwworms only mate once in their lifetime, while males can mate multiple times. By rearing New World Screwworms under laboratory conditions and sterilizing them through exposure to cobalt 19 radiation, sterile male flies can be released into the environment where they outnumber and outcompete wild males to mate with wild females. Once mated with a sterile male, wild females do not mate again and can only lay sterile eggs, resulting in population reduction over time. This method relies on releasing flies continuously into affected areas, and surveillance is critical to deploy flies most effectively. Although many flies are released into an area, humans are unlikely to encounter them in large numbers.

Sterile flies are currently produced by the Panama-United States Commission for the Eradication and Prevention of Screwworm (COPEG). More information on the process of raising sterile flies can be found on the USDA APHIS Ready Reference Guide on Sterile Insect Response (www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/news_rrg_sterileinsectresponse.pdf). The USDA recently announced plans to develop a New World screwworm rearing facility in Mexico, which would provide additional sterile flies to support control efforts (USDA Press Release 0122.25). The STOP Screwworms Act was introduced in the Senate on May 14, 2025, which aims to provide support for a facility to raise sterile New World screwworm in the United States.

How can you protect your livestock?

Severe infestations can lead to significant tissue damage, secondary infection, and death. To minimize risk, inspect any animals arriving from out-of-state, especially if the animals are coming from an area close to current outbreak zones. Look for wounds and larval infestations. Keep any wound areas clean and treat with an antiseptic and insecticide (see Table 1 for options).

In areas experiencing outbreaks, animal husbandry practices that create wounds, such as branding, dehorning,

calving, and ear tagging, need to be monitored. Wounds as small as tick bites can become infested. The lone star and Gulf Coast ticks (Figures 4 and 5) have long mouth parts and, in high numbers, can cause significant hide damage. Gulf Coast ticks and spinose ear ticks can cause damage to the ear sufficient to attract New World screwworm flies. Keep up to date on tick-control practices.

Young animals are the most susceptible to the infestation due to their size; therefore, they should be closely monitored. After birth, the area around the navel is often a site of infection and should be kept clean. Trauma to the dam during calving should also be cleaned and monitored for infestation. In countries where New World screwworm occurs, infested animals can be treated with doramectin as well as prophylactically before a wound-causing event, such as surgery and branding. Currently, doramectin is not labeled for use against the New World screwworm in the United States. Extra-label usage requires a veterinary prescription and administration. Additionally, concerns about the development of resistance in both the New World screwworm and other species, such as gastrointestinal nematodes and external parasites, mean that drug treatment should not be used as a primary method of control for the New World screwworm. Always consult with your veterinarian to make sure products are being used correctly and according to regulations.

Wildlife can also be affected by this fly, and white-tailed deer are particularly sensitive to infestation. Monitor for any suspicious behavior or deaths in wildlife populations on your property. Maintain good relationships and communication with your neighbors and your veterinarian so that communities can respond quickly and effectively if situations change.

What to do if you suspect an outbreak

If larvae are found infesting a live animal, do not panic. Many other fly species can also cause myiasis. It is important to get any larvae identified to rule out a New World screwworm infestation. Begin by taking a photo of the infestation and recording the animal number and history of travel. To avoid further spread, do not move the suspected animal. Isolate and secure the animal and contact the State Animal Health Commissioner, APHIS Area Veterinarian, and your personal veterinarian immediately.

Contact information for Kansas

- Animal Health Commissioner: Dr. Justin Smith, 785-564-6601
- Assistant Animal Health Commissioner: Dr. Sara McReynolds, 785-564-6792
- APHIS Area Veterinarian Office: 785-228-6565



Figure 4. Adult male (L) and female (R) lone star ticks with large wound causing mouthparts



Figure 5. Adult male (L) and female (R) Gulf Coast ticks which cause wound damage to ears.

Additional contact information can be found on the Kansas Department of Agriculture Contacts page (www.agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/division-of-animal-health/contacts) and the USDA APHIS Veterinary Services page (www.aphis.usda.gov/veterinary-services).

The Animal Health Commissioner or the USDA-APHIS Area Veterinarian office will be able to coordinate sample collection and provide a FAD number that will be used for sample submission, as well as help with shipping label support. Form VS 5-38 should be filled out with as much information as possible. The collected sample will be submitted to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVS�) for identification. Before submitting the sample, email va.db.ncsl.dl@aphis.usda.gov, with the subject line: Suspected Screwworm. In the email, the person submitting the sample should provide a brief summary of the animal, location and contact information.

Sample collection

Larvae will be removed from the wound and placed into 70% ethanol (alcohol or isopropyl). Make sure a good variety of sizes are collected from the center mass of the infestation. Secondary screwworms can also be attracted to the site, so make sure you get larvae from the center and as deep into the wound as possible. Once the sample is collected, it is important that all remaining larvae are removed and killed. Collect all larvae and submerge them in ethanol to kill them. Once killed, they can be discarded. Once samples have been taken and all larvae removed, clean the wound thoroughly with an antiseptic; this removes the attractant cues used by the female and speeds up wound healing. Apply insecticide to the area to avoid reinfestation. Depending on the state of infection, your veterinarian may prescribe additional treatments.

Ag Talk

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New World Screwworm in the US

Table 1. Insecticides for potential use against New World screwworm (adapted from USDA APHIS Pesticides to Potentially Use Against New World Screwworm).

Product	EPA Registration Number	Manufacturer	Active Ingredient(s)
Claire Bed Bug, Lice and Dust Mite Spray	706-110	PLZ Corp	Permethrin
Pramex Multi-Use Insecticide Spray	1021-2685	McLaughlin Gormley King Company	Permethrin
887 Multi-Use Insecticide Spray	10900-86	Sherwin-Williams Consumer Brands Group	Permethrin
Co-Ral Coumaphos Flowable Insecticide	11556-98	Elanco	Coumaphos
Catron IV Permethrin Insecticide Spray	11556-171	Elanco	Permethrin
Eradicator II MultiPurpose Insect Spray	44446-80	QuestSpecialty Corporation	Permethrin
CT Residual Spray	47000-100	Chem-Tech LTD	Permethrin
Essentria IC Pro*	NA	Wellmark International	Sodium lauryl sulfate, Geraniol, Clove oil, Cornmint oil
Arkion Fly and Tick Spray*	NA	Arkion Life Sciences	Castor oil, Geraniol, Clove oil, Peppermint oil

*FIFRA 25(b) exempt products. These products do not appear in the NPIRS[®] database. Screwworm does not appear on these labels; however, flies or flying insects are listed.

References

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- Hammack, L., Holt, G.G. Responses of gravid screwworm flies, *Cochliomyia hominivorax*, to whole wounds, wound fluid, and a standard blood attractant in olfactometer tests. *J. Chem Ecol* 9, 913–922 (1983). <https://doi.org/10.1007/BF00987814>
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- Parman DC. Effect of Weather on *Cochliomyia americana* and a Review of Methods and Economic Applications of the Study. *J Econ Entomol.* 1945. Volume 38, Issue 1, 1 February 1945, Pages 66–76, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jee/38.1.66>
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- Zaldivar-Gomez A, Gomez-Vazquez JP, Iniesta-Valencia AJ, Figueroa-Martínez LG, Rico-Chávez O. Estimation the reinvasion of New World Screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) in Central America: The role of animal movement in disease dispersal and control measures. *Vet Parasitol Reg Stud Reports.* 2025 Apr;59:101220. doi: 10.1016/j.vprsr.2025.101220. Epub 2025 Feb 12. PMID: 40121037.

This information came from https://entomology.k-state.edu/extension/human-and-animal-health/New%20World%20Screwworms_June2025.pdf

Ag Talk

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Safe Foods Temperature

Safe Minimum Internal Temperature Chart

Safe steps in food handling, cooking and storage are essential in preventing foodborne illness. You can't see, smell or taste harmful bacteria that may cause illness. In every step of food preparation, follow the four guidelines to keep food safe:

- Clean – Wash hands and surfaces often.
- Separate – Separate raw meat from other foods.
- Cook – Cook to the right temperature.
- Chill – Refrigerate food promptly.

Cook all food to these minimum internal temperatures, as measured with a food thermometer, before removing food from the heat source. For reasons of personal preference, consumers may choose to cook food to higher temperatures.

Product	Minimum Internal Temperature and Rest Time
Beef, Pork, Veal and Lamb Steaks, Chops and Roasts	145 degrees F (62.8 degrees C) and allow to rest for at least 3 minutes
Ground Meats	160 degrees F (71.1 degrees C)
Ground Poultry	165 degrees F
Ham, Fresh or Smoked (Uncooked)	145 degrees F (62.8 degrees C) and allow to rest for at least 3 minutes
Fully Cooked Ham (to Reheat)	Reheat cooked hams packaged in USDA-inspected plants to 140 degrees F (60 degrees C) and all others to 165 degrees F (73.9 degrees C).
All Poultry (Breasts, Whole Bird, Legs, Thighs, Wings, Ground Poultry, Giblets and Stuffing)	165 degrees F (73.9 degrees C)
Eggs	160 degrees F (71.1 degrees C)
Fish & Shellfish	145 degrees F (62.8 degrees C)
Leftovers	165 degrees F (73.9 degrees C)
Casseroles	165 degrees F (73.9 degrees C)

All information came from USDA

<https://www.fsis.usda.gov/food-safety/safe-food-handling-and-preparation/food-safety-basics/safe-temperature-chart>

Ag Talk

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Safe Road Procedures



Be Aware of Slow-Moving Vehicles!

 **Phones Down and Eyes Up!**
Scan the road ahead of you and be watching for indicators of -

1. Flashing Lights 
2. Slow Moving Vehicle Emblem 

 **Slow Down and Watch For Oncoming Traffic Before Attempting to Pass!**
Do not pass illegally, on hills, curves or near intersections. 

 **Watch For Hand Signals!**
Farmers may use hand signals to alert you to their direction of travel/turns

 **Beware of Wide Loads!**
Some equipment moving down the road will be wide. Share the road and drive carefully and respectfully





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Family & Consumer Science

Home Food Preservation

Home food preservation is a great way to save locally grown foods for other times of the year. While the practice of preserving food has existed for thousands of years, the methods have evolved to keep up with today's food safety issues.

The practice of home food preservation is based on science. If improper practices and unsafe food handling techniques are used, the risk of foodborne illness increases, potentially leading to botulism in improperly home canned foods.

For more information check out the K-State Extension Food Preservation Website
<https://www.rrc.k-state.edu/preservation/>



Family & Consumer Science

Diabetes

K-State Extension to offer Diabetes Connections Virtual Series

K-State Extension is pleased to announce Diabetes Connections, a free four-part educational series designed to help individuals living with diabetes and those who support them build confidence and practical skills for daily diabetes management. The series will be held virtually from 12:00–1:00 PM once a month from June through September.

Participants may attend any individual session or join the full four-session series to gain a well-rounded understanding of diabetes self-management. Each class focuses on simple, realistic tools that can be immediately applied to improve health and quality of life.

June 10 – Healthy Eating with Diabetes

Learn how to build balanced meals, make smarter food choices, and enjoy foods you love while supporting better blood sugar control.

July 8 – Being Active: A Key to Managing Diabetes

Discover practical ways to incorporate movement into your day, increase energy, and improve diabetes outcomes—no gym required.

August 12 – Managing Risks: Daily Tools for Diabetes Control

Understand key risk factors, medications, monitoring strategies, and daily habits that help prevent complications and support long-term health.

September 9 – Finding Your Balance: Healthy Coping for Diabetes

Explore stress-management techniques, coping skills, and problem-solving strategies that strengthen resilience and support better diabetes management.

The series is ideal for:

- Individuals living with diabetes
- Family members, caregivers, and support persons
- Anyone seeking practical, reliable information to improve overall health

These sessions are designed to be welcoming, supportive, and easy to understand, regardless of experience or background.

Participants must register online at <https://bit.ly/4v4NNg5>. Spots are limited, and early registration is encouraged. Register today and take the next step toward building healthier habits—one session at a time.

Garden Gossip

Japanese Beetles Have Arrived



These imported beetles originated in Japan (hence the name), where they were only minor pests in their environment. Unfortunately, in the US, they are one of the most destructive pests of lawns, gardens, and ornamental plants that gardeners deal with. These beetles have a one-year life cycle with the adults hatching in May and laying eggs in July. Adults are less than ½" long, with a metallic green head and a bronze-colored body. The larvae or grub form is white and shaped like a "C". The grubs feed on grass roots underground during the fall, then burrow deeper into the soil to overwinter. They eventually pupate in late spring before hatching into adults. The adults are equal opportunity feeders but prefer roses, maple trees, grapes, elms, and crabapples.

Most healthy plants can withstand a small number of Japanese beetles, so general watering and fertilizing will help reduce the impact; however, younger plants or vegetable crops can be quickly desiccated if numbers become too high (Like the grapevine in the picture, Photo courtesy of Nancy Gordon). If you have a small number of beetles on your plants, you can pick them off and throw them into a bucket of soapy water. Larger beetle populations may require chemical treatment. Neem Oil is an organic option; however, it only discourages beetles from eating the plant and must be reapplied frequently. Spinosad is another organic option that kills the adults, but again, it needs to be reapplied frequently. Products containing permethrin, pyrethrin, or carbaryl will provide a couple of weeks of control but must be reapplied. Any spraying should be done early in the morning or late in the evening to avoid harming pollinators. Traps are not recommended, as they attract more insects than they capture and can worsen feeding in the area rather than help control the issue.



Grubs are a significant issue in some lawns. Most grasses can tolerate up to 10 grubs per square foot; however, any number above that will cause dieback and browning of the grass. In heavily infested lawns, the grass can be peeled up like a carpet due to grub feeding or torn up by wildlife searching for the grubs. Control of the grubs should begin soon after they start to hatch in the late summer. Preventative herbicides can be applied up to four weeks before the eggs hatch, and a wide variety of chemical options are available. A biological option called Milky Spore Disease has shown limited effectiveness against high populations and can take a while to establish. Still, it only impacts Japanese Beetles and is an organic option.

Garden Gossip

Renovating June-Bearing Strawberry Beds



Healthy strawberry plantings will be productive for three to four harvest seasons; however, after that, they will need renovation to stay productive. The best time to renovate strawberries is after you have finished harvesting, which is probably right now for June-bearing strawberries. If your strawberry patch was flooded, discard any strawberries, even if they are an everbearing variety. Everbearing strawberries should not be renovated at this time. The renovation process involves several steps, including reducing the row size, removing leaves, and fertilizing.

One of the main goals of renovation is to provide high levels of sunlight to plant leaves so they can manufacture the food the plant needs. If leaves have disease spots, remove all the leaves in the bed. Removing these diseased leaves and weeds will cause new, non-diseased leaves to develop and remove competition from weedy plants. Till or hoe each row of strawberries, leaving a band of plants about 8 to 10 inches wide, or remove small, weak plants throughout the bed, leaving a healthy plant every four to six inches. You can remove all the leaves about 1 inch above the crowns with a lawn mower or cut them off with hedge shears. Follow the mowing by covering the crowns with about one inch of soil. Care for the plants for the rest of the summer as you would a new planting, by watering regularly and not letting the strawberries dry out in the summer heat. It's best to fertilize strawberries in August to encourage growth. The mother plants will form runners or daughter plants throughout the summer. These daughter plants will take root, storing food and setting buds for the following spring. Remove the flowers from these daughter plants in the spring to allow them to produce more fruit the following year. For more information on growing strawberry plants in Kansas, [check out this publication](#).



Garden Gossip

Mosquitos are Coming!!



With all the rain we have had over the last few weeks and the flooding last week, these flying pests have started to make their presence known. Mosquitos are unfortunately a common issue in our area, especially when we have lots of moisture. While a mosquito bite is usually a temporary irritation, it can transmit a variety of human and animal diseases, which we should avoid. Mosquitoes are small, primitive flies that breed near standing water. In their first few life stages, they depend entirely on water as they grow. The entire process from egg to adult can take as little as 7 to 10 days, depending on the species. Female mosquitoes are the only mosquitoes that feed on blood, and they usually must have a meal before they can lay eggs.

Many mosquito breeding sites can be traced to backyard containers filled with water, ponds, and other standing water. There is quite a bit of standing water from last week's rain. One of the easiest ways to reduce your mosquito population is to dump out toys, pots, bird feeders, etc., every couple of days to prevent mosquitoes from using them as breeding grounds. Unfortunately, this must be a community effort, as mosquitoes can travel up to half a mile in search of a meal. If you can't get rid of all the standing water in your backyard, water treatment can prevent mosquito larvae from growing. A variety of products are available to reduce the mosquito population. Mosquito foggers can temporarily reduce mosquito numbers for an evening; there are also bug zappers and other mosquito-trapping devices that can reduce the population. Use sprays with caution because they can harm beneficial insects as well. When outside, try to wear long sleeves, especially early in the morning or at night, and use a repellent.



Video of the Month- Drying Flowers

Drying flowers is an age-old process that's easy to do. Many types of flowers dry well, and some varieties keep their color for a long time -- which means you can enjoy colorful bouquets throughout the year. Watch the video on the [Kansas Healthy Yards website](#).

Garden Gossip

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Garden Gossip

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July Gardening Calendar

Vegetables and Fruits

- Harvest fruits of your labor and enjoy
- Control weed growth to preserve water and nutrients
- Fertilize vegetables to encourage plant development
- Watch for foliar disease development on the lower tomato leaves and treat with a fungicide
- Prepare for fall gardening. Plant potatoes, broccoli, and other fall crops
- Spray sweet corn to control corn earworms as silks emerge
- Be on the lookout for pests of the garden and control
- Remove old raspberry canes after harvest



Flowers

- Remove faded flowers from annuals to stimulate more flowers for late summer color, and from perennials to prevent reseeding
- Keep gardens well mulched
- Lightly fertilize annuals to promote growth
- Dig, divide, and replant crowded irises
- Fertilize roses for fall blossoms
- Fertilize and water container gardens
- Complete the final pinching of chrysanthemum tips for bushier plants

Garden Gossip

July Gardening Calendar Cont.



Lawns

- Fertilize zoysia to encourage summer growth with a high-nitrogen fertilizer. Let grass clippings fall to return nutrients to the soil and grass
- Be on the lookout for summer diseases such as brown patch
- Watch for grubs. If they begin to hatch, an insecticide may be required. Apply in late July or early August.
- Keep mower blades sharpened
- Replace lawn mower air filter and change lawn mower oil per the owner's manual
- Prepare to control perennial grassy weeds such as zoysia, fescue, and nimblewill
- Water deeply and less often for deep roots and a healthy lawn

Trees and Shrubs

- Water newly planted shrubs and young trees (planted within the last three to five years) during dry weather
- Keep plants mulched to conserve moisture and cool roots
- Remove sucker growth from the base of trees and along branches
- Prune diseased, dead, or hazardous limbs

Miscellaneous

- Water weekly by deeply soaking the soil. Use surface irrigation and avoid watering late at night to help reduce disease development.
- Take photos of gardens



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A Minute with Madeline

Ribbons Fade, Skills Last

As fair season arrives, it is easy to focus on ribbons, placings, and awards. While recognition for hard work is exciting, the true value of 4-H goes far beyond what hangs on a banner or sits on a shelf.

Years from now, most members will not remember every ribbon they earned. What they will remember are the skills they developed along the way.

The livestock exhibitor who wakes up early every morning learns responsibility and commitment. The member who will participate in conference judging learns how to communicate effectively and confidently speak with adults. The youth who experiences disappointment after not placing where they hoped learns resilience and perseverance. The member who serves as a club officer will develop leadership skills that will benefit them throughout their life.

These experiences help prepare young people for their future. Employers, colleges, and communities value individuals who can communicate, solve problems, work with others, and adapt to challenges. These are the very skills that 4-H helps young people develop every day.

As we prepare to celebrate our members' accomplishments at the Butler County Fair, let us remember that success is not measured solely by ribbons and trophies. Success is measured by growth, learning, and the confidence gained through trying something new.

Blue ribbons may fade over time, but the skills, friendships, and memories built through 4-H last a lifetime. Those experiences help ensure our young people are not only ready for the next project or competition, they are Beyond Ready for whatever comes next.