



# NEWSLETTER



## From the Director's Desk

### Spring Reset: Plan, Prepare, and Thrive

As we moved through February, some smiled and others frowned at the tradition of the groundhog predicting six more weeks of winter. Yet here in our community, we have experienced anything but harsh winter weather. While folklore may guide our expectations, it is our actions that truly shape the season ahead. Personally, I have welcomed the warmer days —they remind us that change is constant, and preparation is powerful.

March is a month of momentum. It is a time to plan, to prepare, and most importantly, to thrive. In February, our office focused on sharing vital information about eating disorders and wildfire preparedness. These topics may seem very different, but they share a common thread: awareness saves lives. By educating ourselves about the signs and symptoms of eating disorders, we strengthen our ability to support friends, family members, and neighbors who may be struggling. By understanding wildfire preparedness, we protect not only our homes and property but also the safety of our entire community.

As we step into March, our calendar is full of opportunities to learn and grow together. Throughout the month, we will highlight important initiatives on our Facebook page and in our programming. One of these is Walk Kansas, a statewide health initiative that encourages individuals and teams to increase physical activity, build healthy habits, and strengthen social connections. We will combine this with National Nutrition Month. choosing balanced meals, staying hydrated, and being mindful of portion sizes —can have lifelong impacts on our health.

Wellness is not achieved overnight—it is built step by step.

We will also observe Severe Weather Safety Awareness Week, an important reminder that living in Kansas means being prepared for rapidly changing weather conditions. Knowledge of safety plans, emergency kits, and communication strategies can make all the difference when severe weather strikes. Preparation should be confidence-building and not fear-based.

March is also Women's History Month, a time to honor the countless contributions women have made to our communities, our state, and our nation. Their leadership, resilience, and innovation continue to inspire future generations to lead with courage and compassion.

In addition, we will recognize National Agriculture Week, celebrating the farmers, ranchers, producers, and agribusiness professionals who sustain our economy and feed our world.

Agriculture is more than an industry—it is a legacy of hard work, stewardship, and forward-thinking dedication.

March also kicks off the start of spring gardening. You will find useful information to help you thrive with your gardening skills, along with hands-on classes that put education into practical application. Gardening is good for our mental and physical health.

Whether we are strengthening our bodies through physical activity, preparing our homes for severe weather, honoring the leaders who came before us, supporting agriculture, or improving our nutrition, we are investing in a stronger future.

The groundhog may predict the seasons, but we determine our progress. Let us use this season of warmer days and longer light to move forward with intention. Together, we can plan wisely, prepare thoroughly, and thrive fully.

-Charlene

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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.



# Upcoming Events



## Butler County YEC 2026

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

### COMPETITION DATES:

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

#### Register

Register for FREE to participate in the Butler County YEC 2026  
(<https://goventuredash.com/competitions/797>)  
DEADLINE: Feb 13, 2026

#### Prepare

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

#### Compete

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

#### Connect

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



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## LUNCH & LEARN

**March 11th<sup>th</sup>**  
**12:15-12:45 p.m.**  
**Andover Public Library**  
1511 E. Central Ave  
Andover, KS

**March Topic:**  
**Seed Starting:**  
**Tips to Success**

Discover the fun of starting your gardening season off early by growing your own bedding plants indoors. Learn the steps to growing healthy plants you can transplant into the garden this spring. Calla Edwards will explain how to save money growing those hard-to-find plants you want in your garden this year!

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Butler County

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# Upcoming Events



NW 4-H

Judging Event

Super Saturday

Saturday, March 21, 2026, 9:00am - Finish

Host Site: Fort Hays State University

**Judging Contests include: 9:00am to 12:30pm -- \$7.00**

Crops, Entomology, Horticulture, Life Skills, Photography, Livestock Skill-a-thon  
NEW this year Wildlife Skills Judging and Geology

**Volunteer Sessions for Parents and Volunteers - Free, 10:30am**

**Livestock Judging : 12:30pm FHSU enclosed Rodeo Arena, North of I-70**

**Project Opportunities: (NON-LIVESTOCK Judging youth): 1:00 -3:00pm \$5.00**

The afternoon will be filled with STEM and Visual Art Rotation stations, including, robots, circuits, Building Block Engineering, painting and paper crafts.

**Sack Lunches provided with mandatory RSVP - \$8.00**

Registration Link:

[https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_78Jwy8nnfMNIBW6](https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_78Jwy8nnfMNIBW6)

If you have any questions concerning this event, you may contact Robyn Trussel at 785-798-5020 or [rdeines@ksu.edu](mailto:rdeines@ksu.edu) or Chandra Plate at 620-388-7157 or [cplate@ksu.edu](mailto:cplate@ksu.edu)



K-State, County Extension Districts and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating.  
K-State Research & Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer

**Time Line:**

**March 16th- Registrations for lunch and STEM Rotations due**

**March 21st:**

- 9:00am to 12:30pm - Indoor Judging (Crops, Entomology, Horticulture, Photography, Life Skills, and Livestock Skill-a-thon, NEW this year Wildlife Skills and Geology Judging)
- 10:30am to 11:30 - Volunteer/ Parent Session
- 11:50am to 12:50pm Pick up Sack Lunch
- 12:50pm Check in for Livestock Judging at FHSU Rodeo Arena North of I-70
- 1:00pm Livestock Judging Orientation
- 1:00pm to 3:00pm Project Opportunities
- 1:30pm Livestock Judging Contest Begins

**Results:**

Livestock Judging Classes will be talked at the conclusion of reasons being given, all other contest results will be sent out 5-7 business days after the event.

**Who:** Any 4-H or FFA Youth 7-18 years of age, plus volunteers and parents

**Where:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Albertson Hall, FHSU Campus for Indoor and FHSU Enclosed Arena North of I-70 for Livestock Judging

**Cost:** \$7 per individual (1 contest or multiple)

\$\$ Sack Lunch- Sandwich, chips, fruit, cookie and drink

STEM/Visual Arts Rotations : **\$5.00**

Registration will be paid at the Event with Cash or Check made payable to Ness County 4-H Council



**Contest Divisions:**

Juniors - age 7-8 participation prizes only

Intermediates - age 9-13

Seniors - age 14 and over



**Team Notice -- A younger member may move up an age group to complete a team but will be required to complete the requirements of the age division through the entire contest.**

**Awards:**

Certificates and medals will be awarded in the intermediate and senior divisions. The top three individual and the top team will receive medals. The top 10 individuals will receive certificates. Medals and Certificates will be delivered to the home county at the earliest time possible. Junior division will participate as a "learning experience" and receive a 4-H incentive at each judging area. Results will be posted to <https://www.walnutcreek.k-state.edu/>

# Upcoming Events

## 2026 K-STATE JUNIOR BEEF PRODUCER DAY

### Program

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



### Tentative Schedule

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

### Registration



Scan Me!

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

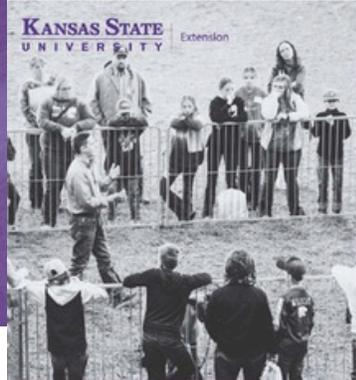
Registration Due  
February 13

Questions?  
Lexie Hayes

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



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



## 2026 K-State Junior Sheep Producer Day



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

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

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

# Upcoming Events



## WALK KANSAS

March 22 - May 16, 2026

Walk with us toward a *healthier* tomorrow.

Registration opens March 1!



Kansas State University  
Extension

walkkansas.org

### K-State Extension Butler County

206 N. Griffith St. El Dorado, KS 67042  
316-321-9660  
cmmiller1@ksu.edu

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## RAIN BARREL CLINIC

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

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



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

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

K-STATE EXTENSION IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN ALL PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES. PROGRAM INFORMATION MAY BE AVAILABLE IN LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH. REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE MODES OF COMMUNICATIONS, SHALL BE PROVIDED. REQUESTS FOR ACCOMMODATIONS SHOULD BE REQUESTED BY CONTACTING THE EVENT CONTACT CALLER AT LEAST TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE START OF THE EVENT AT 316-321-9660 OR CALLER(S) ASKED. REQUESTS RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE WILL BE HANDLED WHEN TIME PERMITS. LANGUAGE ACCESS SERVICES, SUCH AS INTERPRETATION OR TRANSLATION OF VISUAL INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE TO LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT INDIVIDUALS UPON REQUEST. K-STATE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

# Upcoming Events

## COME AND TREAT YOURSELF TO A CLASS OF GREENERY

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

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

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

**TAUGHT BY:  
SIMPLE  
MOREA**



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

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



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

"THIS INSTITUTION IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN ALL PROGRAMS, SERVICES, AND ACTIVITIES. PROGRAM INFORMATION MAY BE AVAILABLE IN LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH. LANGUAGE ACCESS REQUESTS AND REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF COMMUNICATION (E.G., BRAILLE, LARGE PRINT, AND AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE), MAY BE REQUESTED BY CONTACTING THE EVENT CONTACT BUTLER COUNTY EXT. OFFICE FOUR WEEKS PRIOR TO THE START OF THE EVENT, FEBRUARY 26TH, AT 316-321-9660. REQUESTS RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE WILL BE HONORED WHEN IT IS FEASIBLE TO DO SO. LANGUAGE ACCESS SERVICES, SUCH AS INTERPRETATION OR TRANSLATION OF VITAL INFORMATION, WILL BE PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE TO LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT INDIVIDUALS UPON REQUEST."

### **Garden Hour Webinars:**

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

March 2026

# Upcoming Events

Are YOU interested in plants, livestock or wildlife?

## KANSAS YOUTH RANGE CAMP

Upcoming High School Sophomores, Juniors, & Seniors

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

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

June 9-12, 2026 COST: \$300

Contact your local Conservation District for scholarship opportunities!



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

Sponsored by:  
Kansas Section, Society for Range Management



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

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

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

#### Contact Us

Western: Dr. Emma Briggs  
785-625-3425

Eastern: Dr. Jaymelynn Farney  
620-820-6125

#### LEARN MORE AT:

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



Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact Logan Simon SWREC. Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# Available Services

## Bad Odor?

We have a breath of fresh air for you! K-State Research and Extension - Butler County offers Nilodor cotton balls to help eliminate the odor in your most desperate areas.

Just 1 drop can neutralize the air in a 10'x10' room. Costing only \$0.10 per cotton ball, this is an extremely cost effective solution to your most smelly situations.



## Soil Testing

Whether you are preparing your garden for spring planting or wanting to make sure your fields are ready to produce a bumper crop, we can help.

Bring your soil into the K-State Research and Extension - Butler County Office today and we will ship it to K-State Soil Labs for testing. Each test comes with personal recommendations put together by our Agriculture and Horticulture Professionals. Cost will vary depending on tests requested.

For more information on Horticulture Soil Testing, visit our website here: <https://www.butler.k-state.edu/horticulture/Soil%20Tests.html>

For more information on Agriculture Soil Testing, visit our website here: <https://www.butler.k-state.edu/agriculture/soiltest/untitled.html>



# Outreach

## All Things Kansas

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

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



**Access free interactive tools** with data-driven mapping, reports and insights through **30,000+ data layers** and **120+ national and state sources.**

### Your one-stop shop for Kansas data about:

- Agriculture
- Broadband access
- Business
- Child care and youth
- Economy
- Education
- Environment
- Food and food systems
- Health and health care
- Housing
- Population trends and profiles
- Water
- Many more topics

### How All Things Kansas can help:

- Save time by accessing multiple data sources in one place
- Visualize and map data
- Build geography-based reports
- Identify opportunities across Kansas
- Understand communities and market demands
- Analyze workforce strengths and industry gaps
- Research information to help with grant writing
- Make data-informed decisions

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



# Ag Talk

## Charlene Miller

Director/Agriculture Agent

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

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

I don't know about you, but this time of year has me anxiously awaiting the warm days, green grass, blooming flowers, and budding trees of spring. I have to remind myself not to grumble about the snow that continues to come down, because we already short on moisture and need all we can get! Those late summer and early fall rains allowed a second growth of grass throughout the Flinthills, which resulted in significant regrowth and has left us with a high fire load going into spring; each year, Butler County experiences uncontrolled wildfires that threaten homes. Country living is a beautiful thing, until a wildfire is "running" towards your home threatening your property.

If you live in the country, here are a few tips from the Kansas Forest Service for you to help prepare and protect your property from an uncontrolled fire:

- Weed around the property regularly, especially areas that a lawn mower is not appropriate for.
  - Remove leaf litter and other debris that accumulates around buildings, under vegetation, and in other collection areas.
  - All trees within a 105 ft. radius should be pruned to a height of three times the height of surrounding vegetation (usually 6 to 10 feet), but do not remove more than one third of the live crown.
    - Propane tanks, gasoline, and wood piles should be stored 30 ft. from structures. Keep a 10 ft. clearance around propane tanks.
    - Mow the lawn regularly to keep grasses shorter than 4 inches tall around the home.
    - All exterior vents should be covered with a nonflammable wire mesh 1/8 inch or smaller
  - Remove all dead vegetation for a 105 ft radius. Especially prune any dead branches that overhang the roof or are within 15 feet of the chimney.
  - If your property has no large year-round water source, consider working with neighbors or a home owner's association to install one.
  - Maintain power line clearance. Have an arborist assist with existing trees that interfere with power lines. When planting new trees near power lines choose a species that has a mature height of less than 25 feet.
    - Make sure your address is clearly visible from the road, especially in low visibility conditions.
  - If you burn trash or use fire for vegetation management, consult local regulations and obtain proper training.
    - o Controlled Burns must be reported to the appropriate authority. County contact and burn information can be found at: <https://www.bucoks.com/256/Fire-Service>
  - Develop a home emergency preparedness plan that includes: Clearly posted emergency phone numbers, designated escape routes and meeting places, maintained fire extinguishers, and functioning smoke alarms.
  - Teach children fire safety. Remember, children learn by example! More detailed information can be found at: [https://www.kansasforests.org/fire\\_management/fire\\_docs/ReadySetGoGuide.pdf](https://www.kansasforests.org/fire_management/fire_docs/ReadySetGoGuide.pdf)
- Remember, preparedness is the key to prevention. Take a look at your property and do what you can to help protect it from fires!

# Ag Talk

**Charlene Miller**

Director/Agriculture Agent

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

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

## **Native Pasture Burning**

If there's one value I find in social media, specifically Facebook memories, is the reminders of when disasters strike. Time seems to pass us by, and when my memories showed up with the Starbucks fire and then then large fire in Northern Butler County that jumped the West Branch of the Walnut River, Hwy 77 and even the Kansas Turnpike with cars lined up and stopped. Since then, tragedy has struck Colorado, the Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas again, and Oklahoma just to name a few. Sometimes, no matter how much we prepare, we cannot prevent or avoid Mother Nature's wrath.

Although we can't stop some disasters, there are things we can do to help mitigate man-made disasters. This time of year is Spring burning in the Flinthills. Here are a few things you can do to help prepare and reduce the risk of unintended outcomes.

**1) Know the Butler County Burn Regulations! You can find those at: <http://www.bucoks.com/index.aspx?nid=203>.**

**You are required to make notifications and that contact information is found in this link. I also recommend notifying your neighbors. 2) The Kansas Smoke Management Plan goes into effect on April 1 – know the plan!**

**[www.ksfire.org](http://www.ksfire.org) 3) Develop a burn plan; identify your goals, know the weather and wind forecast ([www.weather.gov/ict/fire](http://www.weather.gov/ict/fire)), review safety requirement, determine equipment and manpower needs and know your emergency contacts. Also be aware of roads and major highways and use caution not to lay smoke across them. Evaluate the ground to make sure it's solid enough to hold a pickup and sprayer. Due to recent rains, the ground is a bit soft. If the ground is not solid, think of what will happen when you put fire trucks on there if the fire should escape. Good planning is critical when planning and executing a controlled burn.**

**4) Establish a burn crew and know what equipment is needed. A good rule of thumb is to have one to light the fire, one to drive the sprayer, one to run a nozzle and one to follow with small hand tools to make sure all the hot spots are out. Equipment such as a drip torn, swatters, rakes and a water supply.**

**5) Know why you are burning! Burning occurs for brush and weed control, conserving/maintaining the prairie, wildlife habitat manipulation, improvement of grazing distribution and increased livestock production are some of the more common reasons.**

**6) Know when to burn. This has been a hot topic of discussion, especially in the hunt for control of noxious weeds. If your goal is for weed and brush control, burns should be conducted late spring when the plants have started growing. Another rule of thumb is when there is 2 to 3 inches of new growth in the native grass. In most years, this will occur in this area from mid to late April. You will see some ranches starting the burn now to get new growth established for incoming stocker cattle.**

**7) Know what to do if the fire gets away. Even though a burn is carefully planned and conducted, prescribed burns can still escape. Reassess the situation to see if you have the necessary equipment and manpower to mitigate the problem. Know at what point you have reached your capabilities and when to call 9-1-1. Know what's downwind from you and if there are structures, people or livestock in danger.**

**As we round the corner into rangeland burning season, take time to develop and review your plan. Know what and how you're going to burn, know the current conditions, make sure you have the appropriate crew and equipment, and know when to call 9-1-1 should you need them.**

# K-State Cattleman's Day

**Charlene Miller**

Director/Agriculture Agent

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

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

## K-State Cattleman's Day

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



# Ag Talk

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## POND MANAGEMENT



**FREE TO ATTEND**



RSVP

316-321-9660

<https://forms.gle/uX4Putpp8ao5Gbyq6>



GUEST SPEAKER:

**DR. JOE GERKEN**

K-State Extension  
Fisheries & Aquatic Specialist



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



**6:30 P.M.**



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

### COVERED TOPICS



**Managing Ponds**



**Aquatic Plant Control**



**Stocking Fish**

This institution is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services, and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Language access requests and reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means of communication (e.g., Braille, large print, and American Sign Language), may be requested by contacting the event contact, Charlene Miller, four weeks prior to the start of the event at [cmmiller@ksu.edu](mailto:cmmiller@ksu.edu) or 316-321-9660. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information, will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request.

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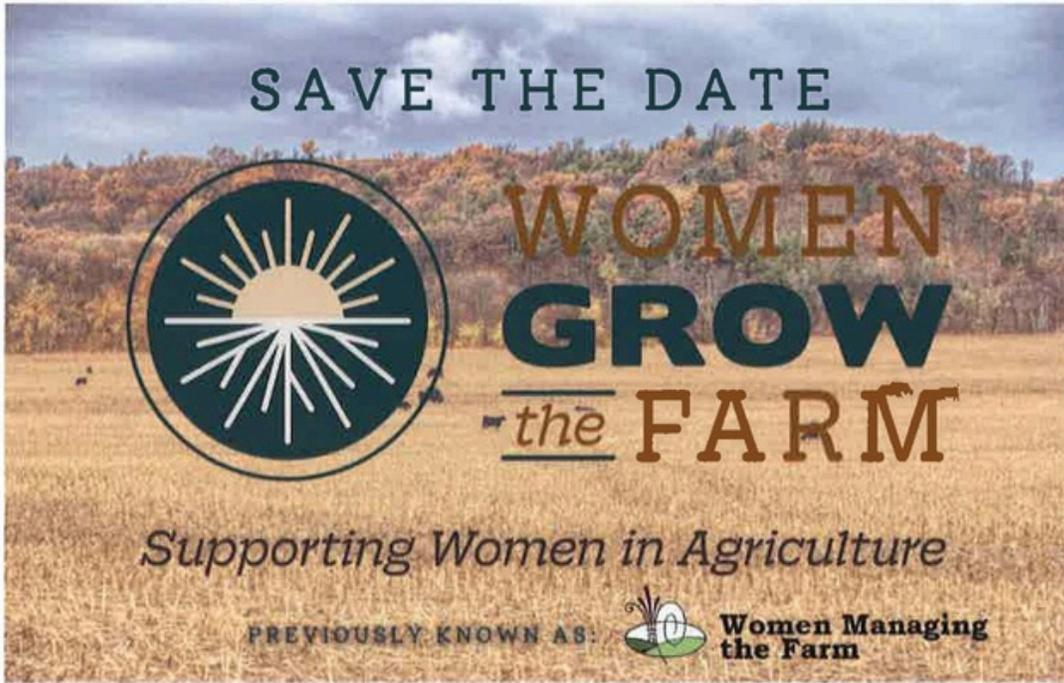
# Ag Talk

**Charlene Miller**

Director/Agriculture Agent

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

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



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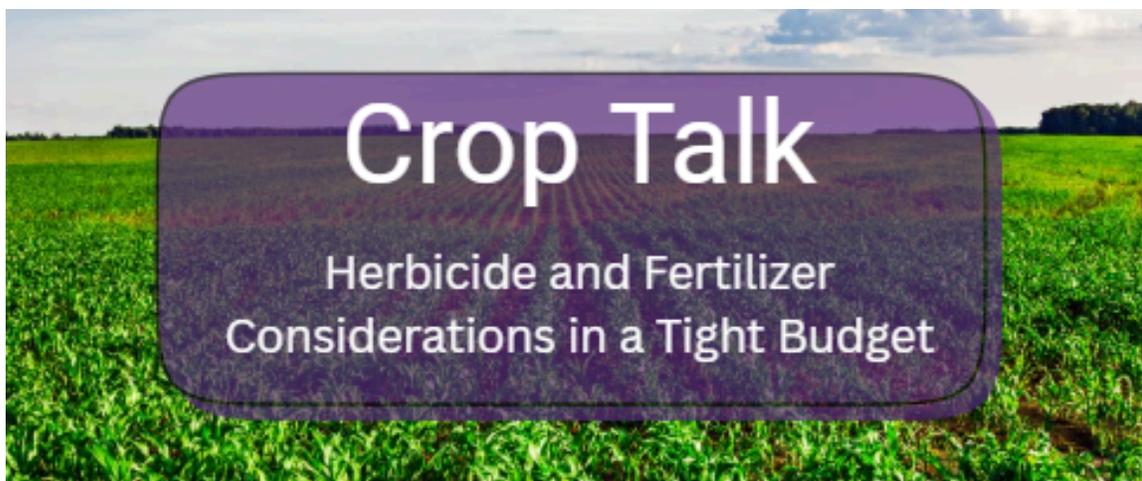
# Ag Talk

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**Come Join us March 3rd**

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



**Butler County Community  
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# Ag Talk

## Charlene Miller

Director/Agriculture Agent

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

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



# CROPtalk

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

## February 10

Understanding Flex Leases

*Robin Reid, K-State Extension Ag Economist*

## February 17

Available Soil Water At Planting and Related Management

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

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

## February 24

Wheat Conditions & Breeding Efforts on Mosaic Viruses

*Allen Fritz, K-State Wheat Breeder*

## March 3

Fungicide Applications in Corn and Sorghum

*Rodrigo Onofre, K-State Extension Plant Pathologist*

## March 10

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

*Anthony Zukoff, K-State Entomologist*



Scan me!

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

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

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

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# Family & Consumer Science



**eat right.** Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

## Discover the Power of Nutrition

Words may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, or backwards													
Apples	N	S	L	I	T	N	E	L	O	T	B	A	D
Bok Choy	D	E	N	H	O	R	G	A	S	I	H	L	R
Carrot	M	H	O	R	N	E	D	M	E	L	O	N	Y
Cornmeal	O	U	D	O	L	S	Q	U	R	A	A	P	L
Horned Melon	T	R	Y	P	S	U	J	S	R	P	L	R	P
Jackfruit	L	E	T	H	O	F	R	H	Y	I	L	D	E
Lentils	T	D	R	K	I	R	A	R	C	A	I	C	A
Milk	O	C	U	T	L	C	K	O	P	C	T	A	H
Mushrooms	P	A	H	C	A	T	T	O	C	I	R	D	O
Pistachios	T	B	O	M	Q	E	A	M	L	S	O	E	J
Pork	T	B	C	N	U	O	O	S	A	P	T	N	A
Quinoa	C	A	R	R	O	T	P	I	B	B	H	O	C
Red Cabbage	M	G	C	Y	R	S	A	F	R	A	E	N	K
Ricotta	L	E	U	K	Q	O	M	E	U	T	M	L	F
Tilapia	G	L	R	O	N	B	K	R	N	O	I	C	R
Tortilla	R	E	F	I	J	A	C	A	G	M	L	Y	U
	L	E	U	L	A	P	P	L	E	S	T	O	I
	I	Q	N	F	I	E	I	M	L	F	R	H	T
	A	L	A	E	M	N	R	O	C	Y	O	C	Q
	B	M	I	S	A	O	G	I	R	A	C	K	A
	N	R	L	P	Y	S	E	T	L	L	B	O	T
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## Eat Right

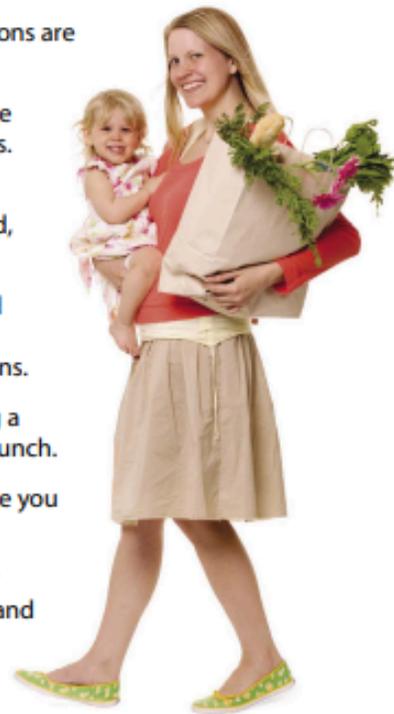
Food, Nutrition and Health Tips from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics



### Healthy Eating on the Run: A Month of Tips

You may eat out a lot – many Americans do. People are looking for fast, easy and good-tasting foods to fit a busy lifestyle. Whether it's carry-out, food court, office cafeteria or sit-down restaurant, there are smart choices everywhere. Here are 31 tips to help you eat healthy when ordering out.

1. Think ahead and plan where you will eat. Consider what meal options are available. Look for places with a wide range of menu items.
2. Take time to look over the menu and make careful selections. Some restaurant menus may have a special section for "healthier" choices.
3. Review and compare nutrition information if it's available. Menu terms that may indicate an item is healthier include: baked, braised, broiled, grilled, poached, roasted, and steamed.
4. Menu terms that usually mean a food is higher in saturated fat and calories include: batter-fried, pan-fried, buttered, creamed, crispy, breaded. Choose these foods only occasionally and in small portions.
5. Think about your food choices for the entire day. If you're planning a special restaurant meal in the evening, have a light breakfast and lunch.
6. Hold the bread or chips until your meal is served. Hunger may drive you to fill up on these foods before your meal arrives.
7. Limit the amount of alcohol you drink. No more than one drink for women and two for men. Alcohol tends to increase your appetite and provides calories without any nutrients.
8. Order the regular or child-size portion. Mega-sized servings are probably more than you need. For a lighter meal, order an appetizer in place of a main course.
9. Begin with soup or salad as a way to include more vegetables at mealtime. Follow up with a light main course.
10. Or choose a salad with grilled chicken or seafood as your main course.
11. It's OK to make special requests, just keep them simple. For example, ask for a baked potato or side salad in place of French fries; no mayonnaise or bacon on your sandwich; sauces served on the side.
12. Ask for sauces, dressings and toppings to be served "on the side." Then you control how much you eat
13. Split your order. Share an extra large sandwich or main course with a friend or take half home for another meal (some restaurants may not permit this or will charge for an extra plate).



# Family & Consumer Science

14. Refrigerate carry-out or leftovers if the food won't be eaten right away. Toss foods kept at room temperature for more than two hours (one hour if warmer than 90 degrees).
15. All-you-can-eat specials, buffets and unlimited salad bars make it difficult to follow recommended serving sizes. Pass these up if you find it difficult to listen to your hunger cues.
16. If you do choose the buffet, fill up on salads and vegetables first. Use small plates, to encourage smaller portions, and limit your trips up to the buffet line.
17. At the salad bar, pile on the dark leafy greens, carrots, peppers and other fresh vegetables. Lighten up on mayonnaise-based salads and high-fat toppings. Enjoy fresh fruit as your dessert.
18. Load up your pizza with vegetable toppings. If you add meat, make it lean ham, Canadian bacon, chicken or shrimp.
19. Enjoy a variety of healthful foods from different cultures. Focus on dishes that emphasize vegetables and lean meats, seafood or beans.
20. Tempted by sweet, creamy desserts? Order a small portion or ask if it can be divided and shared with everyone at the table.
21. At the sandwich shop, choose lean beef, ham, turkey or chicken on whole grain bread. Ask for mustard, ketchup, salsa or low-fat spreads. And, don't forget the veggies.
22. Boost the nutrition in all types of sandwiches by adding tomato, lettuce, peppers or other vegetables.
23. Look for a sandwich wrap in a soft tortilla. Fillings such as rice mixed with seafood, chicken, or grilled vegetables can be healthier options.
24. In place of fries or chips, choose a side salad, fruit or baked potato. Or, share a regular order of fries with a friend.
25. Build a better breakfast sandwich: replace bacon or sausage with Canadian bacon or ham and order your sandwich on a whole grain English muffin or bagel.
26. Be size-wise about muffins, bagels, croissants and biscuits. A jumbo muffin has more than twice the calories of the regular size.
27. Try a smoothie made with 100% juice, fruit and low-fat yogurt for a light meal or snack.
28. For desk-top dining, keep single-serve packages of whole grain crackers, fruit, peanut butter, soup, or tuna around for a quick lunch.
29. Food items on your desk, like nuts or candy bowls, can lead to mindless eating. Keep all snacks and other food items in your desk to avoid the temptation to eat when you're not hungry.
30. Grabbing dinner at the supermarket deli? Select rotisserie chicken, salad-in-a-bag and freshly baked bread. Or, try sliced lean roast beef, onion rolls, salad and fresh fruit.
31. Always eating on the go? Tuck portable, nonperishable foods in your purse, tote, briefcase or backpack for an on-the-run meal. Some suggestions are peanut butter and crackers, granola bars, a piece of fresh fruit, trail mix, single serve packages of whole grain cereal.

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**For a referral to a registered dietitian nutritionist and for additional food and nutrition information, visit [eatright.org](http://eatright.org).**

**eat right.** Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is the world's largest organization of food and nutrition professionals. The Academy is committed to improving health and advancing the profession of dietetics through research, education and advocacy.

This tip sheet is provided by:



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Authored by Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics staff registered dietitian nutritionists.

Source: *Finding Your Way to a Healthier You*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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# Garden Gossip

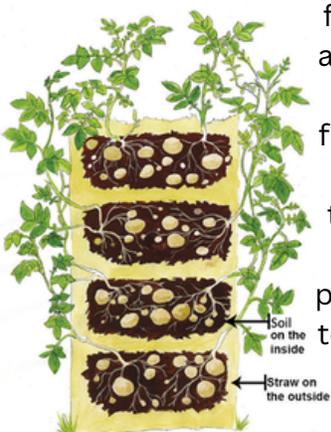
**Calla Edwards**

Horticulture Agent

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

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

## Growing Potatoes in Towers



Have you been looking for something new to try this spring? Do you enjoy those fresh-from-the-garden delights, but struggle to incorporate them into your meals? Potatoes are a relatively easy-to-grow crop that the whole family can enjoy, and can be grown vertically in your smallest spaces. Traditional potato plantings require long rows of mounded soil from which the plants grow. This can be a hard-growing method for older gardeners, those with mobility issues, or gardeners who live in apartments. Growing potatoes in towers takes those long rows and stacks them, resulting in a much more productive use of space and an eye-catching garden feature. First, a reminder on how to cut potatoes. Before planting, seed potatoes can be cut into sections, each with one to two eyes. Generally, I try to end up with at least one-inch cubes of flesh with the eye(s). These sections are then left to set for 24-48 hours to allow the cuts to heal. This prevents the sections from rotting once planted. If your seed potatoes are very small, you can leave them whole and plant them directly.

For potato towers, you can either buy pre-built towers or build ones yourself. To build the towers, use four-foot lengths of rolled fencing wire or concrete wire shaped into tubes and fastened with wire.

Place the tower in a sunny location with well-draining soil near a water source. Once you've decided where you want to grow for the season, place the cages and stake them down with landscape staples. You can also use rebar, bricks, or anything else you have around the garden to weight down your cages. To fill the tower, you will need straw or mulch and either raised bed soil or general potting soil. As a reminder, don't use soil from your garden in this container. Layer the tower with 4-6 inches of straw, then 4-6 inches of soil. Place the seed potatoes about every 5 to 6 inches along the outside edge of the tower, and water-in. Add another 4-6 inches of soil to cover the potatoes, and repeat the process beginning with straw. Be sure to incorporate a general-purpose fertilizer in the soil as you plant every layer.



# Garden Gossip

Most potato varieties will do well in this type of growing condition. Potatoes grown in pots will typically be smaller than those grown in the ground, but they will still be productive. Consistent moisture is vital. Ensure the soil remains moist but not waterlogged. The tower's design promotes adequate drainage, reducing the risk of root rot. Remember to fertilize regularly, as the amount of growing media for the potatoes is relatively small. Incorporate a balanced, low-nitrogen fertilizer, such as 5-10-10, into the soil at planting. Reapply lightly midway through the growing season to support tuber development. Once the foliage begins to yellow and die back, typically after 10-12 weeks for early varieties, it's time to harvest. Carefully dismantle the tower, allowing the soil to fall away and revealing the potatoes for easy collection. Growing potatoes in containers or towers is an excellent alternative for gardeners with limited space, in apartments, or those who struggle to grow potatoes in the ground. Remember to keep the potatoes' moisture and fertilizer needs met, and you can have an excellent harvest this season. As a reminder, potatoes are typically planted in mid to late March. Be sure to buy certified disease-free potatoes rather than using leftover grocery store potatoes. For tips on cutting potatoes before planting, check out our video on Seed Potato Preparation. For additional information on how to grow potatoes, check out the KSE Irish Potato publication

# Garden Gossip

**Calla Edwards**

Horticulture Agent

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

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

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## CALLA EDWARDS

K-State Extension is your number one source of reliable, research-based information in Butler County. If you are looking for a speaker for any of your programs or meetings, Horticulture Agent, Calla Edwards, has vast expertise in all areas of horticulture! Some of her programs include:



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

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## Pesticides

### Pesticide Safety

Spring is a time when homeowners wage a war on insects and weeds around their homes, often using chemical products. Whether you are using organic or synthetic chemicals, using them correctly is vital to your health and how well the product works. Pesticides can be an important tool in your gardening toolbox, but only if they are used properly. Here are some tips to use pesticides safely around your home this year.

- **Correctly identify what you want to control:** Before applying any chemical, the first step is to figure out what you are trying to control in the first place, whether it's a weed, an insect, or a disease. If you apply the wrong product, your issue could get worse. Contact me if you can't figure out what is happening, and I will help you. In some cases, pesticides might not be needed at all.
- **Choose the right pesticide:** Once you know what you are trying to control, you can figure out what product to use. There are thousands of products on the market, so your first step when shopping for a product is to read the label to see if the pest, disease, or issue you need to control is listed. Some other factors to consider when picking a chemical include environmental safety, ease of use, cost, and the application equipment needed.  
Choose the pesticide with the lowest environmental impact or possible danger rating.
- **Read the Label!!!** The label will give you all the information needed to safely apply that chemical, including the clothes to wear, the rate to apply, the weather to apply in, how long till it is rain fast, and how to clean up after the chemical is applied. Be sure to read the label before mixing or applying any chemical.
- **Clothing counts:** Most of the time, exposure to chemicals can be prevented by wearing the proper clothing, including closed-toed rubber shoes, long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and the correct gloves. It's important to wear the right clothing. After you finish your application, wash your clothes with laundry detergent powder on the washing machine's hottest, deepest water setting. Be sure to wash those clothes separately from all other clothing to prevent chemicals from getting on your family's clothes. To clean the washer, run it one cycle after you wash the spray clothes.
- **Don't forget the Shoes:** Be sure to remove any shoes you used spraying outside the house and triple rinse them off to make sure the chemical has been removed. If possible, leave them in a garage and use them only outside.
- **Always use the original container:** Keep it in the original container, no matter what chemical you use. If a neighbor asks to borrow some chemicals, always send the main bottle; never give them some in a pop or other bottle. There have been too many cases of people accidentally drinking chemicals because they weren't stored properly. If you must transfer it to another container, clearly label that product and include the label when possible.
- **Storage and Disposal:** Make sure to store all chemicals away from children, preferably in a locked cabinet. Chemicals also should not be allowed to freeze in the winter as this impacts their effectiveness. If you have extra chemicals you won't use, dispose of them properly at a hazardous waste collection site. Never dump chemicals down the drain or pour them out onto the ground. Once a bottle is empty, be sure to triple-rinse it before disposing of it.

Pesticide safety is an important aspect of working in a lawn or garden. Even organic chemicals can be harmful if you are exposed to them. Chemicals themselves are not bad; they are simply tools in a gardener's toolbox when used correctly. The issues happen when you don't read the label and don't follow the instructions. Remember to be safe, read the label, and have a wonderful gardening season.

# Garden Gossip

**Calla Edwards**

Horticulture Agent

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

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

## March Gardening Calendar

### Vegetables and Fruits

- If there are no soil test results, fertilize the garden with 1 to 2 pounds of 10-10-10 per 100 square feet.
  - Plant:
    - o Potatoes, peas, onions, lettuce, and other salad crops.
    - o Asparagus, rhubarb, and strawberries.
    - o Broccoli, cauliflower, and cabbage in late March.
- Start seeds inside for tomatoes, peppers, and other warm-season vegetables.
- Apply dormant oil to fruit plantings to reduce scale and mite insects.
- Make a fungicide application to control peach leaf curl.
  - Finish pruning fruit trees, grapes, raspberries, and blackberries.
- Remove mulch from strawberries when growth begins



# Garden Gossip

## February Gardening Calendar Cont.

### Flowers

- Plant pansies, snapdragons, calendulas, and other cool-loving annuals.
- Clean up the perennial bed by cutting back foliage and removing the winter mulch layer. Divide and plant perennials in the garden.
- Plant new roses. Remove winter mulch from existing roses and prune.
  - Cut ornamental grasses back to within 3 to 5 inches of the ground.
  - Fertilize spring flowering bulbs such as tulips and daffodils.
    - Cut seed pods from spent bulbs.
- Help control iris borers by destroying old foliage before new growth begins.
- Unwrap mail-order plants immediately and keep them cool and moist until planting.

### Lawns

- Spot spray for dandelions, henbit, and chickweed.
- Apply crabgrass preventer in late March through mid-April for best results.
  - Seed thin areas in tall fescue lawns.
  - If no fall application of fertilizer was made, fertilize tall fescue.
  - Mow grass ½ inch lower to remove winter debris. Do not scalp.

### Trees and Shrubs

- Pruning:
  - o Prune trees, except birch, maple, and walnut, which are best pruned after leafing out.
  - Wait to prune spring flowering shrubs until after they bloom.
- Mulch tree and shrub plantings up to 4 inches deep, keeping mulch away from trunks.
  - Fertilize trees and shrubs.
  - Plant new trees in the landscape.
  - Remove tree wraps from young trees for summer growth.
  - Rake and clean groundcover plantings.

### Miscellaneous

- Sharpen and repair garden tools.



# 4-H

## Madeline Wallace

4-H Youth and Development Agent

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

<https://www.butler.k-state.edu/4-h/>

## A Minute with Madeline

### Record Book Mid-Year Check-In: Stay Organized, Stay Ahead

As we move into the heart of the 4-H year, now is the perfect time for a mid-year record book check-in. Record keeping is more than a requirement; it is a life skill. Accurate, consistent records help members track growth, reflect on progress, and demonstrate responsibility. Waiting until the end of the year often leads to stress and forgotten details. A simple review now can make a significant difference later.

Start by reviewing what you have already completed. Are your project goals clearly written and still relevant? If your goals have shifted, update them to reflect what you are actually working toward. Strong goals are specific and measurable, not just “do well,” but “improve showmanship score by 10 points” or “complete three woodworking projects.”

Next, bring your financial records up to date. Livestock, gardening, and many other projects involve expenses and income. Make sure feed costs, supplies, entry fees, and any sales are recorded accurately. Good financial documentation not only strengthens your record book but also builds real-world money management skills.

Don't forget to log meetings, workshops, clinics, and community service hours. These experiences show your level of engagement and growth. Include leadership roles, presentations given, and contests entered. Even small activities add up over time and reflect your commitment.

Finally, take time to reflect. What skills have you improved? What challenges have you faced? Reflection sections are often what set strong record books apart. Judges are not only looking for numbers; they are looking for evidence of learning and development.

Spending 30–60 minutes now reviewing and updating your record book can save hours later.

More importantly, it ensures your hard work is documented and recognized. Staying consistent is the key to success, and your future self will thank you at the end of the year.