



## Horticulture

### **Myth or Not? Adding Sand will loosen Clay Soils?**

Calla Edwards – Horticulture Agent

Clay soils are a common problem in Butler County, and many gardeners are trying to find ways to improve the soil in their yard and garden. Clay soils are made up of tiny clay particles that tend to be flat in shape. This means that clay soil particles can easily stack tightly on top of each other and create a “tight” soil. A tight soil has small pore spaces, which reduces the amount of water that can infiltrate the soil and means that the water that does infiltrate will hang around longer than other soil types. On the other hand, sand is the largest soil particle we find in our soil. The idea to add sand to heavy clay soils stems from the fact that if clay is the smallest soil particle, leading to poor drainage, and sand is the largest soil particle, causing fast drainage, mixing the two will result in well-drained soil.

Unfortunately, it doesn't work that way. When sand mixes with clay, it creates a concrete-like soil structure. In fact, think about the ingredients of concrete: gravel or sand and a fine particle binding agent (AKA cement, which is derived from limestone and sometimes clay). Similar to how cement binds particles of gravel to create concrete, clay soil can bind with added sand particles to create a denser soil. To make a fundamental change in a clayey soil structure, you would need to add a 1:1 ratio of sand to clay. The actual volume of clay soil underfoot equates to a lot of sand. Using organic matter to help break up clay soil is far more practical. Compost is your best bet, but organic matter can come from other sources like wood mulch, composted manure, shredded leaves, or even cover crops. Unfortunately, adding organic matter to your garden is not a quick fix for heavy clay soils. It will take years of adding organic matter to improve your garden soil drastically.

## 4-H & Youth Development

Madeline Wallace – 4-H & Youth Development Agent

The start of a new 4-H year is here, and it's the perfect time to get involved! From hands-on learning to leadership opportunities, 4-H helps youth build friendships, gain confidence, and develop skills that last a lifetime. This fall, families can jump in through several exciting events: the **4-H Open House on October 27 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Community Building, where members will showcase projects and visitors can explore clubs; the **Achievement Celebration** on November 8 at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Building, honoring the hard work and accomplishments of members and volunteers; **Volunteer Training** on November 13 at 6:00 p.m., designed to equip new and experienced leaders with tools and ideas; and **Officer Training** on November 8 at 1:00 p.m., helping club officers learn their roles and grow as leaders. With the new national campaign Beyond Ready, 4-H is preparing young people for success not only in their clubs, but in life—so mark your calendars and join us to make this the best year yet!

### Contact us:

Phone: (316) 321-9660

Facebook: @ksrebutlerco

Web: Butler.K-State.Edu

Twitter: @ButlerExtension

Address: 206 N Griffith St, Ste. A, El Dorado, KS 67042

See our full Newsletter at <https://www.butler.k-state.edu/newsletter.html>

For KSRE publications and information,  
visit [www.ksre.ksu.edu](http://www.ksre.ksu.edu)

## Family Consumer Sciences

### **Living Well Wednesday**

Bonnie Brewer – FCS Extension Agent

Kansas State University's popular *Living Well Wednesday* webinar series returns this fall! The free webinars are held the third Wednesday of each month from September through November. The sessions begin at 12:10 p.m., with the virtual room opening at noon to allow participants time to log in, grab lunch and get settled. Registration is free and available at [bit.ly/41E7kqJ](http://bit.ly/41E7kqJ). You also can search 'Living Well Wednesday Extension' and the information will pop right up.

The 2025 fall series kicks off **September 17** with a webinar on fentanyl and opioid awareness, presented by Jenni Ebert, a community health educator with the Riley County Health Department. Jenny will explain how one pill can kill. Fentanyl can be lethal even with a first use. It only takes about two milligrams, or five to seven grains of salt. She helps people understand how to be more aware of those dangers and what they can do to protect themselves and their families.

On **October 15**, the focus turns to recognizing, avoiding and reporting scams, with Ed Burr, an investigator with the Kansas Attorney General's office. He will go into detail about how to recognize and avoid a scam, but also what to do if you are a victim. Scams can have devastating financial and emotional consequences.

**November 19**, the series will address energy drinks, a timely topic for families, students and health-conscious individuals. Energy drinks are high in caffeine, sugar, and other stimulants. While they may provide a short-term energy boost, they can also lead to heart issues, anxiety, and even insomnia or gastrointestinal problems. Youth, pregnant women, and people on medications should be especially cautious.

Living Well Wednesday continues to show the real breadth and depth of Kansas State University's Family and Consumer Sciences work. We're proud to bring these timely topics to Kansas families.

## Agriculture

### **Fall Soil Testing of Hayfields and Pastures**

Charlene Miller – Agriculture Agent/Extension Director

Knowing the soil nutrients is a requirement to establish an adequate soil fertility program for forages. Soil testing can be done in either spring or fall on hayfields and pastures. Given a choice, fall would be the preferred time because it allows more time for any needed lime applications to have an effect before the main growing season begins, and it gives the producer some flexibility for planning nutrient applications.

Soil sampling is typically recommended at least every 3-4 years, but more frequent sampling (every 2 years) can keep you from applying excessive and unnecessary amounts of fertilizer or manure, and can increase yields by revealing exactly which soil nutrients are too low for optimum productivity. This is also helpful with fall army worm damage if you are considering applying a partial application of fertilizer this fall to help get some regrowth and root establishment before our first frost.

**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension



Butler  
County

# Open House

**LEARN ABOUT OUR 4-H CLUBS,  
DIFFERENT 4-H PROJECTS, AND  
ATTEND THE NEW FAMILY MEETING**

**BUTLER COMMUNITY BUILDING  
200 N GRIFFITH ST, EL DORADO**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 27**

**BOOTHS OPEN**

**6:00 PM - 7:30 PM**

**NEW FAMILY MEETING**

**6:30 PM - 7:00 PM**

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service  
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## 4-H Online Enrollment Opens October 1st!

### 4-H's Long-reaching Effects

Compared to other youth, 4-Hers are:

**4x**

more likely to contribute  
to their communities

**2x**

more likely to be  
civically active

**2x**

more likely to make  
healthier lifestyle choices



### The Top 5 Project Areas in Butler County:

1. Visual Arts
2. Foods & Nutrition
3. Photography
4. Woodworking
5. Fiber Arts (Includes 9 Projects)

### Find more information here:



### What does Butler County 4-H have to offer?

- 9 Community 4-H Clubs across the County
- Butler County 4-H Shooting Sports
- Over 70 Projects
- Cloverbud Program for ages 5-6 yrs.

Visit Our Website

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

Call Us

316-321-9660

Join Us For Our 2025 Quarterly Extension Connection

# Mug Mingle



**Grab a mug and mingle with your local  
Butler County Extension Staff**

**Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup> from 7:45-9:00 a.m.**

# **Living Well Wednesday Fall 2025 Series**

**September 17**

One Pill Can Kill: Opioid Crisis in Our Communities

**October 15**

Scam Smarts: Staying Safe in a Scamming World

**November 19**

The Buzz on Energy Drinks: Unpacking the Truth

All sessions start at 12:10pm CST.  
Sessions will be recorded for later viewing.  
Sign up at [bit.ly/41E7kqJ](https://bit.ly/41E7kqJ)

**LIVING WELL  
WEDNESDAY**

K-State Research and Extension Webinar Series

**K·STATE**  
Research and Extension

Family and Consumer  
Sciences





# 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.

**October 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**12:15-12:45 p.m.**

**Andover Public Library**  
1511 E Central Ave  
Andover, KS

**October Topic:**  
**Woody Plant Propagation**

Vegetative propagation, cloning, and asexual propagation are all terms used to describe the process of making new plants that are genetically identical to your existing plants. Learn about the basics of plant propagation for the hobby gardener. With a little knowledge and some simple tools, learn how to be successful in propagating your plants.

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# LUNCH & LEARN

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**October 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**12:15-12:45 p.m.**

**Lori's EMPORlyum!**  
1604 Custer Lane  
Augusta, KS

**October Topic:**  
**Bringing Beauty with Bulbs**

Nothing says "Hello Spring" like the cheery smile of a bright yellow daffodil or a bed of colorful tulips. This spring welcome does not just happen, it must be planned. Fall is the ideal time to plant spring flower bulbs in the landscape. Calla will cover everything you need to know to have success with spring-flowering bulbs.

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