

K-State Extension Butler County

October 2026

➡ Agriculture

Blue-green algae in farm ponds has been a rising concern in September. With the cooler weather and increased rain, hopefully this problem will mitigate itself soon if it has not already. Cyanobacteria can produce cyanotoxins that cause adverse health conditions or death of people and animals. A pond containing a harmful algal bloom may be covered with a layer that looks like bright-green paint, but other colors are possible, varying from blue-green to grey and occasionally red or brown. Some cyanobacteria are filamentous and may form slimy strands. If you have concerns, you can contact our office for a site visit and we can guide you through on where and how to ship a water sample for testing.

➡ Family and Consumer Sciences

The “ber” months are here, and that often triggers seasonal depression, also known as SAD or Seasonal Affective Disorder. The change in seasons and shorter days with less sunlight can trigger those “winter blues” in a milder form. SAD goes beyond the winter blues and is a form of depression. Light therapy, healthy habits, and professional care are ways you can find relief. More information on this can be found on the [National Institute of Mental Health website](https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/seasonal-affective-disorder). <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/seasonal-affective-disorder>

➡ Horticulture

Clay soils are common in Butler County, but adding sand is not the solution. Clay particles are tiny and pack tightly together, creating small pore spaces that can limit drainage. While sand is larger and drains quickly, mixing it with clay can create a dense, concrete-like soil. Instead, improve clay soil by adding organic matter such as compost, composted manure, shredded leaves, wood mulch, or cover crops. Organic matter can improve soil structure and drainage over time, but it is not a quick fix. Improving heavy clay soil takes years of regularly adding organic matter.

➡ 4-H Youth Development

A new 4-H year is here! October brings new projects, new opportunities, and plenty of chances to learn by doing. Whether you are a returning 4-H family or brand new to 4-H, now is the perfect time to get involved and think about what you want your 4-H year to look like. Our 4-H Open House on October 12 is a great way to kick off the year, giving families the opportunity to learn more about Butler County 4-H, meet club leaders and other 4-H families, and explore the many projects and opportunities available to youth. As you begin this new year, think about what you want to learn, try, create, and accomplish. Maybe it's trying a new project, taking on a leadership role, attending a workshop or camp, or becoming more involved in your club. There is no one right way to experience 4-H, and we are excited to help Butler County youth grow skills, build confidence, and become Beyond Ready for whatever comes next. We hope to see you at the Open House and throughout the new 4-H year!

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

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