**Horticulture**

**CICADA KILLER...NOT MURDER HORNETS**

We are receiving inquiries regarding large wasps flying around. These large wasps fly slowly above the ground. Cicada killers have a black body with yellow marks across the thorax and abdomen. Wings are reddish-orange. Males may act aggressively if they are threatened, but are unable to sting. Females can sting, but are so passive that they rarely do. The female nests in burrows in the ground. These burrows are quarter-size in diameter and can go 6 inches straight down and another 6 inches horizontally. Adults normally live 60 to 75 days from mid-July to mid-September and feed on flower nectar and sap. The adult female seeks cicadas on the trunks and lower limbs of trees. She stings her prey, flips it over, straddles it, and carries it to her burrow. She will lay one egg per cicada if the egg is left unfertilized. Unfertilized eggs develop into males only. Fertilized eggs develop into females and are given at least two cicadas. Cicadas are then stuffed into the female's burrow. Each burrow normally has three to four cells with one to two cicadas in each. However, it is possible for one burrow to have 10 to 20 cells.

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**Agriculture**

We are receiving lots of calls regarding algae/moss in ponds. Once it starts it is hard to control. Many landowners prefer a chemical control of aquatic plants, but it can be risky if there is an over-abundance of plants, extended periods of overcast skies, or not using the chemicals properly. Other options available include management (reduce areas where the water is clear), biological (grass carp) and altering the habitat (reducing nitrogen and phosphorous into the pond).

Several publications are available from KSRE at: https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/Category.aspx?id=22&catId=362

Texas A&M University also has an excellent site for identification and treatment: https://aquaplant.tamu.edu/

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**Family Consumer Sciences**

September is National Family Meals Month... Let's Stay Strong with Family Meals!

Over the past few months, we've found ourselves at home. We may be cooking more, and eating more meals with our family members. These Family mealtimes have benefits --

**Benefits:**
- Fuel Better Nutrition
- Foster Emotional Balance
- Make the Grade(s)
- Fend Off Risky Behavior

**Challenges:**
- Get the kids involved
- Connect with conversation
- Keep It Simple with easy recipes to enjoy

Need some help with the challenges, so your family can reap the benefits of eating together? Check our KSRE/Butler County Facebook page @ksrebutlerco in September for Family Mealtime ideas.

No matter what your "family" looks like, you can find out more about the benefits and find ways to take on those challenges with food tricks, conversation starters, recipes, and more. Raise your mitt and commit to Stay Strong with Family Meals!

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**4-H & Youth Development**

Enrollment for Butler County 4-H is coming up soon. From hands-on exploration to project-based skill building young people thrive through 4-H participation, finding their way to success in life and career. We are excited to offer over 35 projects ranging from Foods and Nutrition, to Robotics and Geology to livestock. There truly is something for everyone! We focus on exploration, learning, and experiencing the world around us through hands-on activities lead by our qualified volunteers and mentors. Any Butler County youth ages 7-18 is eligible to join 4-H! Our learning pathways support 21st Century learning skills to help our youth grow and develop into productive citizens within their community!

I encourage you to visit our website: https://www.butler.k-state.edu/4-h/ to learn how to enroll in 4-H!

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