

McPherson County

K-STATE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION NEWS

April 2023

AG NEWS

SHAD MARSTON
COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES



Spring is in the air. I heard the frogs on March 26, for the first time this year. My grandfather told me hearing the frogs at 3 different times means spring is here. Let me clarify, that doesn't mean 3 days in a row. It means 3 different times.

With the changing weather pattern of winter to spring, we in the field of agriculture change our thoughts of surviving winter to now looking into the future of what warmer weather brings us. Planting spring crops and getting ready for summer turnout of livestock are on the minds of everyone. Lots of plans have been made for the upcoming seasons and now the fresh start of spring activities are kicking into first gear throughout McPherson County.

K-State Research and Extension is up for the challenge of helping and educating everyone in their decision making when it comes to agriculture, but also 4-H and Family & Community Wellness. Let us be your first stop in providing educational, researched based information.

McPherson County Master Gardeners and Friends

McPherson Master Gardeners and Friends are hosting their last spring program on April 27 at 7:00 PM at the Extension Office meeting room. Calandria Edward's will be presenting a program over Succulents. Calandria is the new KSRE Butler County Horticulture Agent.



Plant Swap

The McPherson County Extension Master Gardeners and Friends will be sponsoring an Earth Day Plant Swap on Saturday, April 22 from 9:00am till noon at the McPherson County 4-H building in McPherson. Plan to share plants that you have divided or thinned and pick up new plants from others in exchange... for FREE! Bring your plants—flowers, veggies, bulbs, seeds and even gardening tools to SWAP!

Gardening News **Shad Marston**

Spring is a great time to plant vegetables in your garden. After the cold winter months and when the weather warms, you can start sowing seeds, planting bulbs, and getting root vegetables in the ground. Adding a garden to your yard is a great way to spruce it up. Not only are gardens visually pleasing, there's nothing as satisfying as watching a garden that you have created and tended to with your own hands flourish. Plus, there are so many different kinds of gardens that you can create, from vegetable gardens to flower gardens to rock gardens and more, there is truly a garden style out there for everyone. April is a great time to get your garden in good shape for the spring and summer seasons. The best vegetables to plant in spring are ones that can survive light frosts, warm sunny days, and cool nights.

Frost Proof Vegetable Plants

Certain vegetables can tolerate our cold spring temperatures as long as they have been acclimated by gradually increasing their exposure to the sunlight and outdoor temperature. This process is called "hardening off" and usually takes about one week. Reduce watering up to one week before hardening off. To begin hardening off move transplants outside for a portion of each day. First place them in a shady location protected from the wind. Over the week, gradually increase the plants' exposure to the elements. Cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower and onions that have been hardened off can withstand temperatures near 20 degrees F. Lettuce plants can tolerate temperatures in the mid 20s.



Asparagus Time

You may start seeing asparagus spears emerging from hibernation. These first spears take longer to reach harvest size because asparagus growth is temperature dependent. Warmer day and nighttime temperatures result in faster asparagus growth. As the season progresses and spears get longer, their growth rate increases. Spears can be harvested by snapping or cutting. Though snapping is quick and easy, the ends do dry out more quickly. Bend the stalk near the base until it breaks and store in the refrigerator as soon as possible. For cutting, use a sharp knife and cut the spear slightly below the ground level. The base is woodier than a snapped stem so it doesn't lose water as quickly. Remove the woody base prior to cooking. Asparagus should not be harvested the first year of planting. The second year, harvest for three to four weeks until the spear size decreases. Every year thereafter, harvest the spears for six to eight weeks.



Strawberry Planting

While the weather is cool the time is right for starting strawberry plants. Mother plants should be set from mid to late March in southern Kansas and late March to mid-April in northern Kansas when soil temperatures are between 65 to 80 degrees F. This cool period allows strong root systems to establish which promotes more runners and daughter plants to develop. Establishing mother plants in early spring encourages daughter plants to grow earlier as well. This results in larger growth from the first daughter plants by the end of the growing season and ultimately more berries the following spring. Planting during the higher temperatures stresses the mother plants limiting their growth, making them weaker and delaying the onset of daughter plants. All of this negatively affects the number of berries produced. Newly established plants have a limited amount of energy stored. This energy needs to be used for root development and making runners rather than making fruit. During the first growing season, remove all flowers to prevent energy from being used for fruit development. If fruit is allowed to develop during the first year of growth expect weaker daughter plants and a drastic reduction in the amount of fruit the following year due to insufficient energy. Space strawberry plants 18 to 24 inches apart in rows 12 to 18 inches wide as strawberries bear most of the fruit on the edges of the row rather than the center.



Apple Tree Sprays

Apples are the fruit most likely to be damaged by diseases and insects of any fruit grown in Kansas. Two common diseases on apple trees are cedar apple rust and apple scab. Though some apple varieties are resistant to these diseases, some say, most varieties are susceptible. For a listing of the disease resistance of various cultivars, go to: <https://extension.missouri.edu/g6022>

Fungicide sprays during April and May are critical to preventing disease on susceptible varieties. The first spray should go down when leaves appear. A fungicide that is available to homeowners and very effective for control of apple scab and cedar apple rust is myclobutanil (Immunox, Fungi-Max and F-Stop Lawn & Garden Fungicide). There are several formulations of Immunox but only one is labeled for fruit. Check the label. Sprays should be done on a 7- to 10-day schedule to keep the protective chemical cover on the rapidly developing leaves and fruit. These diseases are usually only a problem during April and May. An insecticide will need to be added to this mixture after petal drop to prevent damage from codling moths that cause wormy apples.



Proper Timing for Crabgrass Preventers **Ward Upham**

Crabgrass preventers are another name for preemergence herbicides that prevent crabgrass seeds from developing into mature plants. Many people have a somewhat foggy idea of how they work and assume they kill the weed seed. Such is not the case. They do not kill the seed or even keep the seed from germinating but rather kill the young plant after it germinates. Therefore, they do not prevent germination but prevent emergence.

Proper Timing for Crabgrass Preventers

Ward Upham (cont'd)

Crabgrass preventers are just that – preventers. With few exceptions they have no effect on existing crabgrass plants, so they must be applied before germination. Additionally, preventers do not last forever once applied to the soil. Microorganisms and natural processes begin to gradually break them down soon after they are applied. If some products are applied too early, they may have lost much of their strength by the time they are needed. Most crabgrass preventers are fairly ineffective after about 60 days, but there is considerable variation among products. (**Dimension and Barricade last longer. See below.**)

For most of Kansas, crabgrass typically begins to germinate around May 1 or a little later. April 15 is normally a good target date for applying preventer because it gives active ingredients time to evenly disperse in the soil before crabgrass germination starts. Even better, base timing on the bloom of ornamental plants. The Eastern Redbud tree is a good choice for this purpose. When the trees in your area approach full bloom, apply crabgrass preventer. A follow-up application will be needed about 8 weeks later unless you are using Dimension or Barricade. Products that do require a follow-up application include pendimethalin (Scotts Halts) and Team (Hi-Yield Crabgrass Control).

Dimension and Barricade are the only two products that give season-long control of crabgrass from a single application. In fact, they can be applied earlier than April 15 and still have sufficient residual strength to last the season. Barricade can even be applied in late fall for crabgrass control the next season.

Dimension can be applied as early as March 1. Because of the added flexibility in timing, these products are favorites of lawn care companies who have many customers to service in the spring. Though Dimension is usually not applied as early as Barricade, it is the herbicide of choice if it must be applied later than recommended. It is the exception to the rule that preemergence herbicides do not kill existing weeds. Dimension can kill crabgrass as long as it is young (two- to three-leaf stage). Dimension is also the best choice if treating a lawn that was planted late last fall. Normally a preemergence herbicide is not recommended unless the lawn has been mowed two to four times. But Dimension is kind to young tall fescue, perennial ryegrass, and Kentucky bluegrass seedlings and some formulations can be applied as early as two weeks after the first sign of germination. However, read the label of the specific product you wish to use to ensure that this use is allowed. Lawns established in the fall can be safely treated with Dimension the following spring even if they have not been mowed.

Note that products containing Dimension and Barricade may use the common name rather than the trade name. The common chemical name for Dimension is dithiopyr and for Barricade is prodiamine. Remember, when using any pesticide, read the label and follow instructions carefully.

We recommend crabgrass preventers be applied before fertilizer so that the grass isn't encouraged to put on too much growth too early. However, it may be difficult to find products that contain preemergents without fertilizer. Those that don't contain fertilizer are listed below.

- **Barricade**

- Howard Johnson Crabgrass Control Plus with 0.37 Prodiamine 00-00-07
- Pennington Pro Care Crabgrass Control Plus .37 Prodiamine 0-0-7 Turf Fertilizer

- **Pendimethalin**

- Scotts Halts

- **Team (Benefin + Trifluralin)**

- Hi-Yield Crabgrass Control

- **Dimension**

- Hi-Yield Turf & Ornamental Weed and Grass Stopper





FCW News

CHUCK LAUGHLIN
COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT
FAMILY & COMMUNITY WELLNESS



Walk Kansas: Walk 56 in 56

March 26, 2023 - May 20, 2023

Walk 56 in 56 (Walk Kansas) is off and going! You can log minutes of activity and fruit/veggie amounts back to Sunday, March 26.

As a participant, you are also invited to register for a 6-week series of weekly webinars provided on Wednesdays, April 5 - May 10, at noon. **Med Instead of Meds** focuses on the Mediterranean eating style and we will offer loads of great information and recipes you can try at home! Read more in the "Resources" section in the Walk Kansas portal and register here if you are interested: https://ksu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cNlvJGNQSFeVAnoYM1-j9g

Want to join Walk 56 in 56 but suffering from Fear Of Missing Out (FOMO)? There is still time to sign up. Sign up will remain open into April! Join alone, gather your friends, family, co-workers, etc. to join our walk to a healthier you for Walk 56 in 56. Sign up now at <https://www.walkkansas.org/>

DID YOU KNOW?

US Route 56 is the only trail for Walk Kansas that will start and end outside the state of Kansas.

US Route 56 will go through, cross or touch 5 states on your walk. Those states are: New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri!

The entire trail for Route 56 will cover 640.25 miles! That is 11.43 miles of walking per day (if you're walking it alone)!

- On a team of 6, that is 1.91 miles per day per person
- On a team of 4, that is 2.86 miles per day per person



First FRIDAY e-CALL
 Creating AirBNBs to Support a Vibrant Economic Development
 Heather Minnick, Lea Ann Sailer & Diane Deitz
Join Us April 7, 2023 9:30am
 Register Today
<https://ksre-learn.com/ecall>
K-STATE
 Research and Extension

First Friday e-Call

Mark your calendars for April's call which will be **Friday, April 7 at 9:30am to 10:30am**. Kansas AirBNB owners will share their experiences with AirBNBs as a support for small towns, trails, and other local attractions.

Registration link:
https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/community/business/entrepreneurship/#sign_up

Teach & Taste – Roasted Jalapeno Poppers

April will be HANDS ON as each participant will get to make their own Jalapeno Popper. Plan to join us in April as the calendar recipe is Roasted Jalapeno Poppers. Come by and go hands on as we take you through the recipe. Like a little kick to it, leave some seeds in yours. Like yours mild, take the seeds out of yours. We look forward to seeing you April 12, 2023 at 6:30pm at the Extension Office.

Use the link below to register and come join us and try out a new recipe.

This recipe is...

- **Gluten Free**
- **Vegetarian (option available)**

Registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/TeachandTasteApril>

TEACH & TASTE
 Roasted Jalapeno Poppers
April 12, 2023 6:30 PM
McPherson County Extension Office
600 W. Woodside
McPherson, KS
 This class is out of this world AND Free!
 Register At:
<https://tinyurl.com/TeachandTasteApril>
 Or Scan The QR Code
 SCAN ME
 Did you know? Jalapeños have been in space! They were taken on board the Columbia space shuttle in the 1980s and are the only chili pepper to have left Earth.
 K-STATE Research and Extension
 SNAP Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
 Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service
 All State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider

Kansas Department of Health and Environment, (KDHE) is offering all phone coaching enrollees eight weeks of free nicotine replacement therapy while supplies last.

KanQuit!
 KANSAS TOBACCO QUITLINE
 1-800-QUIT-NOW (784-8669)
KSquit.org

For the first time in the twenty-year history of the Kansas Tobacco Quitline 1-800-QUITNOW (1-800-784-8669), the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, (KDHE) is offering all phone coaching enrollees eight weeks of free nicotine replacement therapy while supplies last. **Participants who are 18 years and older that want to quit smoking, vaping or chewing tobacco and enroll in the phone coaching program can choose a lozenge, gum, or patch that will be mailed directly to their home if they enroll by midnight on Sunday, April 30.** "We want all tobacco users to know that although quitting is hard, they can do it," said Matthew Schrock, cessation coordinator. "Individuals who smoke often try to quit several times before succeeding, but proven treatments and services are available that can improve your chances to quit for good. We encourage all Kansans to try to quit, and if they want free help, take advantage of this opportunity." The Kansas Tobacco Quitline is a free, 24/7 resource available to Kansas residents to help them quit smoking. The Quitline provides help, such as counseling, a personalized Quit Plan and quitting support by phone and through online services. A survey of Quitline users highlighted that 90% of participants were satisfied with the Quitline coaches and counselors. The Quitline can be reached by calling 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669).

County Connection E-News

To register to receive updates on upcoming events, calendar updates, webinars, senior and military discounts available, county resource phone numbers, as well as tips and tricks to make life easier.

County Connection Sign-Up
<http://eepurl.com/iicSFn>



Clover Corner

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Can you believe it's April? The weather is changing, the temperatures are rising and the 4-H year is flying by! Please make sure to continue to work on your projects and goals, get ready for camps and enjoy what the rest of the year has to bring! Remember to continue checking your e-mails, our Facebook page and newsletters for current news/events going on in McPherson County 4-H. The office as a whole appreciates your continued patience as we transition and get used to the changes as well.

Sheep/Meat Goats/Swine Weigh-In & Tagging

Tuesday, April 25

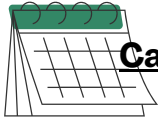
3:00 PM-7:00 PM

Fairgrounds Block Building

Fairboard Council Meeting

The next meeting will be held via ZOOM on April 6 at 7 PM. Plans need to be made for the upcoming fair! At this first meeting we can assign job responsibilities and make initial plans for each board member to finish up so we can have a face to face meeting in the middle of April to finalize the fair, fairbook, schedule and any other fair activities. The link will be e-mailed the day of the meeting!

Horse IDs must be signed by May 1



Calendar of Events

April

- April 1 Multi-County Club Day
- April 6 Fairboard Meeting (ZOOM)
- April 25 Swine/Meat Goat/Sheep Tagging
- April 29 Livestock IDs due May 1 (May 1 is a Monday)

Enrollment Deadline Approaching

In order to participate at the 4-H Fair, all enrollments must be 100% complete by May 1. Visit v2.4honline.com to create a family profile and enroll EACH youth! Remember that you are able to access your enrollment information at any time online. If you would like to add a project for 2023, this must be done by **May 1!**

Get Published

Have project news or reports of fun 4-H happenings? Please email or bring in any articles to Lauralee at Lhelm@ksu.edu by April 20 to get them into the Clover Corner!

Livestock IDs

Due into the office on May 1. Horse IDs require a signature from an agent and must have photos. You **MUST** bring the **ORIGINAL ID** for signature, not a copy. Late IDs will not be accepted.

This includes beef, sheep, swine, dairy, horse, dairy goat, and meat goat.

Exceptions to this are rabbit and poultry. Poultry do not have an ID form, rather they will go through testing prior to the fair and receive bands to put on. Rabbit IDs are due June 1.



K-State Research & Extension
McPherson County
600 W. Woodside
McPherson, KS 67460

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

AGENT CONTACT INFORMATION

Shad Marston
County Extension Agent
Agriculture & Natural Resources
smarston@ksu.edu
Radio Every Monday:
7:40 AM-96.7 KMPK
8:40 AM-98.9 KMCP
Ad Astra Radio Station

Chuck Laughlin
County Extension Agent
Family & Community Wellness
claughlin@ksu.edu