



4-H Youth Development

SHYANNE JONES
COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

April 2024

Calendar of Events

- 4/4-Council Meeting at 7:00 PM at Extension Office
- 4/5-Deadline for Spring into Volunteering Registration
- 4/6 - Club Days at Chisolm Trail Middle School in Newton
- 4/20-Last day to order Beef DNA envelopes
- 4/20-Spring into Volunteering, Salina **See Below
- 4/22-Ambassadors Meeting at 6:30 PM at Extension Office

- 5/1-Beef Nominations Due Online-DNA Postmarked & Deadline for Project Enrollment to participate in the 2024 Fair

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 26 to get them into the Newsletter.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW!

Kansas 4-H Discovery Days

<<<<Class Session List Registration>>>>

Check sessions out and register quickly as some are limited on space and will fill up fast!

K-STATE Research and Extension

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service. K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Discovery Days

Participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from this event.

When: June 5-7th, 2024

Who: Youth ages 13-18 before January 1, 2024 are invited to register

Cost: \$225 - Some class sessions may have additional fees associated

Registration: <https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV-cYEpUBOXOdhYFWm>

Discovery Days participants will be included in a special recognition event honoring the State Project Award Winners. This event will be held in the K-State Student Union on the evening of Thursday, June 8th and will include an evening social and entertainment. More details to follow!

Discovery Days objectives:

- Help youth learn new ideas, techniques, and skills they can use personally and in their 4-H clubs or groups and communities
- Give youth in-depth training through hands-on educational sessions from content and youth development experts
- Prepare youth to make informed decisions about their careers and college path
- Enhance personal growth by giving opportunities to develop responsibility, confidence, independence, accountability, problem-solving, decision-making, and time management skills
- Help youth meet new people and make new friends from different places and with different backgrounds from across the state
- Provide an opportunity for youth to experience the K-State campus and its wealth of resources
- Develop college and career readiness skills which prepare participants academically and socially for a successful transition to college and life as an adult



DNA Envelopes for State Nominations:

Families will pay their nomination fee by purchasing official DNA envelopes online through ShoWorks. Envelopes that were purchased in 2022 or 2023 are still valid. Old DNA envelopes (2021 and before) will not be accepted. The new envelopes include all of the information necessary to enter each animal into the system, as well as provide a place for the barcode sticker, which families need to request from their local extension office. The deadline to order DNA envelopes is 10 days prior to the nomination deadline: Market Beef – April 20; Small Livestock & Commercial Heifers – June 5. There is also an option for expedited shipping. Orders will continue to be filled after the DNA order deadline, but families must pay the \$50 expedited shipping fee to have them overnighted. This is in addition to the cost of each DNA envelope. Families may also pick up their DNA envelopes in-person, as long as they pay for them online and contact the KSU Youth Livestock Program in advance to make arrangement for pick up.

Beef exhibitors: if you did not get your bar codes in the mail, early April is the time to panic and call Shyanne, NOT April 29th.

Sheep/Meat Goat/Swine Nominations

THESE ARE BEING POSTPONED ONE WEEK TO MAY 1st!

ALL MARKET ANIMALS must be tagged, weigh-in for rate of gain is optional. It is also recommended to weigh/tag any breeding animals as a backup option for the market class. Please call or email Shyanne to arrange an estimated time.

PLEASE ALSO view the requirements for nominating state fair animals. You should have an email from Lexie Hayes about this, if you did not get it, please let Shyanne know. If you have state fair animals that need to be tagged with an eID, please bring them this day. You should have an email from Lexie Hayes about this, if you did not get it,

CLUB DAYS VOLUNTEERS

There are many open spots to volunteer at Club Days, please claim the slot you are available to help out in:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D4CACAA2CA2F49-48187910-multi#/>

IMPORTANT

Deadline for Fair Participation

May 1st is the deadline to add projects in order to participate at the 4-H fair! Make sure you're enrolled and have all your projects in a row prior to May 1st!

Spring into Volunteering

The Kansas Association of 4-H Volunteers is hosting "Spring Into Volunteering" on Saturday, April 20 in Salina, Kansas on the K-State Campus. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. and the day will conclude at 3 p.m. Fee includes materials, snacks and lunch. Register by April 5th:

<https://www.kansas4-h.org/volunteers/volunteer-continuing-education/index.html>

Dog Project

Dog project will be meeting on Wednesdays starting Wednesday, April 10th from 5:45pm-7pm at the 4-H Building. Dog ownership is not required, and everyone is welcome to learn about dog showing!

You must bring the following form the first time a dog attends:
<https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/mg34.pdf>

2024 4-H Geology State Field Trip

June 14-16, 2024

Northwest Kansas

Open to 4-H Geology project members and their families- everyone in attendance (ages 0-120) are asked to register for the event.

REGISTRATION DUE MAY 24TH

Link & Agenda Coming Soon

For additional information please contact:

- David Doldak, 316-250-2808, djdoldak@gmail.com
- Wally Mack, 785-317-0725, wallyscout@yahoo.com



SPRING INTO VOLUNTEERING

FOR ANYONE SERVING AS A 4-H VOLUNTEER OR CONSIDERING IT!
SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024 IN SALINA, KS

REGISTER TODAY

K-STATE
Research and Extension

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service.
K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

SHAD MARSTON
COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

With the moisture and the warm temperatures, we have previously had the last few months, the color of green is showing up everywhere. Here are some spring reminders. Lawns can be spot sprayed for board-leaf control of weeds. Cool season veggies can be planted in your garden or containers. For our farmers, continue to monitor ground temperature before planting corn and check alfalfa stands for alfalfa weevil. Proper timing for a pesticide application is key. Cattle should be removed from wheat pastures as the wheat has reached, first hollow stem. Grazing past this stage can severely affect wheat yields. Now is a good time to start checking pastures and fixing fences for deer damage, tree limbs or large fallen pieces of trees. Remember to follow the Kansas Fence Laws when rebuilding pasture fences between two different landowners. Both parties should equally share in the expense. Also, communication is key between the two, before a fence project starts. Removal of trees from pastures is very important and can be done anytime of the year. Trees are quickly becoming a menace and in some cases, a huge workload. Plan to spend time this spring and summer cutting and clearing the pastures of trees.

-Shad

Outlook for stripe rust in 2024 Kansas wheat crop Kelsey Andersen Onofre, Extension Plant Pathologist

Over the last ten years, stripe rust has been one of the most damaging wheat diseases in Kansas. Several factors contribute to the development and severity of stripe rust in our region within a given year. The stripe rust pathogen typically does not survive in Kansas over the winter but can survive in Texas through the winter months and make its way back north as the weather warms in the spring. Because of this, weather conditions in Texas in the fall and early spring can be important predictors of how bad stripe rust will be in Kansas.

This year, the first stripe rust report we received was from Chillicothe, TX, on January 31, where the disease was starting to take hold. Reports indicated that stripe rust was still active there and in McGregor, TX, in late February. On March 8, moderate to high levels of stripe and leaf rust were reported in wheat breeding nurseries in Castroville, TX (just outside San Antonio). To date, there have been no detections in Kansas yet in 2024. Historically, detections in Kansas before April 15 have been associated with bad stripe rust years. Scouting efforts over the next few weeks will be very important.

How did winter weather look for stripe rust in Texas?

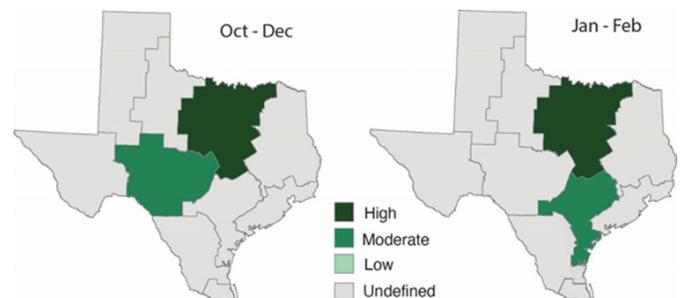
A look at the moisture patterns for 2023-24 indicates there was moderate/high moisture in Texas in the fall (map on the left in **Figure 1**), which may have been favorable for rust development. This pattern of moderate/high moisture has continued through the early spring, which has likely promoted stripe rust sporulation and spread.

Figure 1. K-State research has shown that the annual severity of stripe rust outbreaks in Kansas can be predicted by soil moisture in key regions of Texas in both the fall and the early spring. In the fall of 2023, soil moisture in Texas was moderate to high (indicated by medium/dark green colors on the map). In Jan-Feb 2024, there was also high moisture in some of these key regions of Texas. These maps show soil moisture levels based on the "Palmer Z-Index" provided by NOAA-National Centers for Environmental Information.

What does this mean for Kansas wheat?

Early reports of high levels of stripe rust in Texas, along with favorable weather in Texas in the fall and spring, are early indicators that we could have a stripe rust issue in Kansas in 2024. Historically, years that begin like this have ended with high yield losses in Kansas due to this disease. Of course, stripe rust severity in Kansas is still largely driven by weather conditions in the state in the late spring and the varieties planted. Once stripe rust is detected in Kansas, cool evenings and extended periods of canopy moisture will be necessary for disease establishment at levels that would result in yield loss. If the weather turns hot and dry quickly, stripe rust will have fewer opportunities to take hold.

The disease situation can change rapidly, and it is important to continue to scout for signs of disease development as the season progresses. We will continue to provide updates on stripe rust occurrence and weather outlook as we move toward critical growth stages for fungicide applications in Kansas over the next several weeks.



Spring Planting of Row Crops Shad Marston and Ignacio Ciampitti

The planting date is one of the most critical factors for row crops. Farmers should consider basing this decision on soil temperature and moisture rather than just calendar dates. After a warmer February and first half of March soil temperatures may fall below normal in the coming days. Therefore, planting decisions should consider the current soil temperatures and the short-term (7-day period) forecast. You can monitor soil temperatures here in McPherson County and other counties by using the Kansas Mesonet's soil temperature tracking tool at:

<https://mesonet.kstate.edu/agriculture/soiltemp/>

It is worth mentioning that topsoil temperature differences could be large depending on multiple factors. These factors including soil type, soil moisture, residue cover, tillage, landscape position, and others. For example, wet soils under a no-tillage system are expected to warm up slower. Dry soils will fluctuate more rapidly, matching air temperatures, particularly if skies are clear.

Impact of a hard freeze on corn

Corn is also more likely than other summer crops to be affected by a hard freeze after emergence if it is planted too early. The impact of a hard freeze on emerged corn will vary depending on how low the temperature gets, the intensity and duration of the low temperatures, field variability, residue distribution, tillage systems, soil type, moisture conditions (more severe under dry conditions), and the growth stage of the plant. Injury is most likely on young seedlings or plants beyond the V5-6 growth stage when the growing point is above the soil surface.

From 1991-2020, the average day for last spring freeze (32F) in McPherson County varies from April 12 to April 17. From southeast to northwest Kansas; the earliest last spring freeze date is April 1-14 and latest is May 5-12. Thus, corn planting dates before the third week of April in McPherson County would represent a risk and a higher risk as you move that date towards the beginning of April, in suffering from a late spring frost damage of corn.

Master Gardener & Friends Highlight:

The McPherson County Master Gardeners and Friends last spring program for all McPherson County residents will be April 25, at 7:00pm at the Extension Office meeting room.

Guest Speaker-Karen Blakeslee, M.S. Extension Associate
Rapid Response Center Coordinator
Kansas State University Research & Extension, Department of Animal Sciences & Industry

Topic- Storing and Preserving Produce

Plan now to attend our April 25th Master Gardener and Friends educational program and learn something new!

The McPherson County Extension Master Gardeners and Friends will be sponsoring an Earth Day Plant Swap at the McPherson County 4-H Building at 710 W. Woodside, McPherson, KS 67460

Optimal soil temperature for crop emergence

Every summer row crop has an optimal soil temperature for its emergence. Corn's minimum temperature for germination and early growth is 50F. When soil temperatures remain at or below 50 degrees after planting, the damage to germinating seeds can be particularly severe. Uniformity and synchrony in emergence are critical and primarily achieved when soil temperatures are consistently above 55F. Uneven soil temperatures around the seed zone can produce non-uniform crop germination and emergence. Lack of uniformity in emergence can greatly impact corn potential yields. Competition between early-emerged and late-emerged plants, as well as competition from weeds, may negatively impact biomass and grain production.

EARTH DAY PLANT SWAP

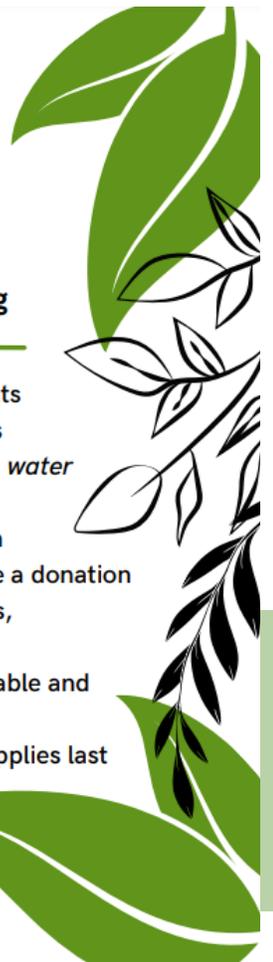
Saturday, April 20

9 to 11 a.m.

McPherson County 4-H Building

- Share your divided or thinned plants
- Label your plants with growing tips (*height, spread, color, light, soil & water needs*)
- Pick up new plants for your garden
- Swap your plants for free OR make a donation
- Choose from plants, flowers, bulbs, vegetables, seeds & tools
- Tour the Master Gardeners' vegetable and display gardens
- Free veggie plant for kids while supplies last

**Sponsored by McPherson
Master Gardeners & Friends**



Using a Crabgrass Preventer Shad Marston & Ward Upham

Crabgrass is an annual plant, so it lives for one year. This weed thrives in hot, dry conditions and often appears in early summer when temperatures start to rise. At the end of the growing season, its primary mission is to produce seed. Each plant can produce up to 150,000 seeds, which means crabgrass can spread quickly and easily if not controlled. So, if you're fighting crabgrass in your lawn currently, it's because last year's dead plants completed its mission.

Seeds begin to sprout during the mid-spring when the soil temperature reaches 55 degrees Fahrenheit for a stretch of at least four or five consecutive days. By the time the daily average soil temperature is 73 degrees Fahrenheit, most of the crabgrass seeds should have germinated.

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. 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



Family & Community Wellness

CHUCK LAUGHLIN
COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT
FAMILY & COMMUNITY WELLNESS

McPherson County Calendar - Online

We are up with a temporary county-wide calendar of events, but don't get attached to the location as the McPherson County Extension will be going through a website overhaul and the location will move. **But don't worry**, we will let you know where to find it. For now, the calendar of events can be found on the front page of the McPherson County Extension website. Events will be added more and more each day as we begin to bring the calendar on-line.

To begin, the calendar will include items published in the My Hometown printed calendar. Additional events can be entered to be added at the following link. We will be adding public events, seminars, business sponsored events, etc. More information will be coming out as we begin to add more features. There is not a functionality to add personal events (i.e. garage sales, sale of personal items, etc.).

<http://tinyurl.com/MCAddEvent>



Calendar events will be added on a batch process so they will not show up immediately. We are also working to streamline this process as we work through processes with K-State (the calendar host).

To ensure the accuracy of information for your event, calendar items must be entered through the link and will not be taken via phone or email.

Teach & Taste – Smashed Broccoli

April's recipe, Smashed Broccoli, is sure to be a hit! RSVP now to join us April 10, 2024 at 6:30pm.

Please RSVP to ensure we have enough for everyone.

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

This recipe is...

Gluten Free (option available)

<https://tinyurl.com/TandTApril24>



Trail Talk Tuesday



April 10, 2024

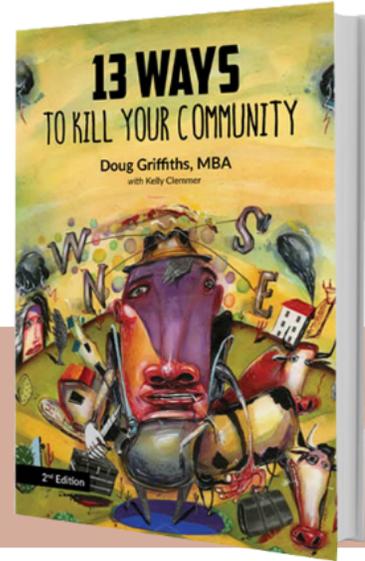
Rail Trail Issues

Join K-State Research and Extension on March 12, 2024 from 12:00-1:00 pm for a Trail Talk Tuesday webinar and then save the date for March & April.

Register now at <https://ksre-learn.com/trail-talk>

13 Ways to Kill Your Community by Doug Griffiths coming to Canton

The new year will be bringing a pilot program for McPherson County to the city of Canton. We will be making available the book 13 Ways to Kill Your Community for a community-wide discussion titled Community Shelf Care. This pilot program will be done in partnership with the Canton Township Carnegie Library and will be evaluated for future rollouts.



Upcoming Discussion Dates:

- April 18th at 7pm at Main Street Bar & Grill
- May 14th at 12:30pm at Canton Senior Center

Walk Kansas

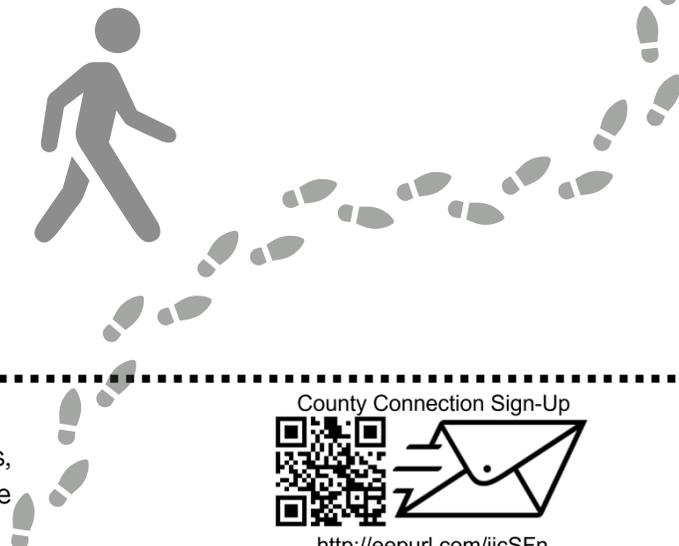
We are off and walking. Walk Kansas officially kicked off on Sunday, March 31, 2024. Are you getting that fear of missing out feeling? Never fear, there is still time to sign up and catch up. Registration remains open at walkkansasonline.org.

Lace up those shoes and get your team ready. This 8-week program aimed at health and fitness is in the planning stages. Yes, once again this year Route 56 will be an option to take you all along the Route that passes right through McPherson County from West to East. Watch our County Connection email, Facebook, or website for the signup information to Walk 56 in 56 or just Walk Kansas. Either way no matter how you do it the goal is the same to get moving and get healthy. So, get your teams of up to 6 people together and get moving.



To schedule time with Chuck follow the link below or scan the QR code.

<https://calendly.com/claughlin-ksu/meeting-with-chuck>



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>



K-State Research & Extension
McPherson County
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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

Shyanne Jones
County Extension Agent
4-H Youth Development
shyannejj@ksu.edu

Chuck Laughlin
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Family & Community Wellness
claughlin@ksu.edu