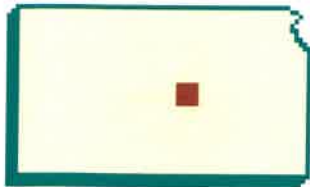


McPherson County



K-State Research & Extension
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MARCH 2021



Ag News

Shad Marston
County Extension Agent
Agriculture and Natural Resources



Master Gardeners and Friends Upcoming Events

All programs will be virtual Zoom meetings and the Extension office has the link if you're not of the M/G list. Start time will be at 7:00pm with Business meeting to follow. All zoom meeting will be recorded for view at later date.

March 25	Container Gardening	Cassie Homan <i>Post Rock District Horticulture Specialist</i>
April 22	Rain Gardens	Sarah Graber
June 26	June Garden Tour	Be watching for more details in the upcoming months!



Chemical Weed Control Book

The new K-State 2021 Chemical Weed Control Guide is now available.

Use this as a guide because this publication provides suggestions for chemical weed control in several major crops, but also includes pastures, rangeland, and non-cropland.

Hard copies of this publication are available here at the Extension office.

Tractor Safety Course



Be watching for upcoming information on a "Virtual" Tractor Safety Course!



Plan to join us for the **2021 KSU Cattlemen's Day** hosted virtually on Friday, March 5, 2021. Visit www.KSUbeef.org for online registration and more information. Thanks to our sponsors, registration is complimentary. The tentative schedule includes:

- 9:30 am Welcome - Mike Day, KSU ASI department head
- 9:45 am Pandemic Effects on the US Beef Industry Jayson Lusk, Purdue University distinguished professor and Ag Economics department head
- 10:30 am 2020 Beef Processing, Retail and Foodservice COVID-19 Insights Jason Rumley, Radian Group principal Robert Norris, Radian Group director
- 11:15 am Reproductive Technology Resources and Current Tools Sandy Johnson, KSU ASI livestock production specialist
- 11:35 am Pandemic Effects on Small Kansas Processors Liz Boyle, KSU ASI extension meat science specialist
- Noon Question-and-Answer Session
- 5:00 pm 44th Annual Legacy Bull & Heifer Sale. Visit www.asi.ksu.edu/bullsale for more information.

For more information, contact Dale Blasi (dblasi@ksu.edu; 785-532-5427) or Ken Odde (kenodde@ksu.edu; 785-532-1227).

“Winter Safety”

January and February are behind us and are some of the coldest months of the year. These months often bring extreme weather conditions that can be challenging for agricultural workers that work in the elements. March means the changing to the spring months and with that, farmers and livestock producers spend more time away from the warm confines of the house and out in the elements. Falls, slips, and trips continue to be one of the leading causes of workplace injuries (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019) and although falls and slips can occur anytime, extra precautions are required during these wet, cold months. Portable heaters are often used as heat sources in many shops and barns. Portable heaters are one of the most common causes of carbon monoxide poisoning and structural fires. If heaters are used in confined spaces, always remember that ventilation is required to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Additionally, the areas where heaters are used should be checked for combustible materials and heaters should never be left unattended. The U. S. Department of Labor, OSHA website offers other tips and resources for working outside in the winter and may be accessed at <https://osha.gov/winter-weatherpreparedness>

Winter is not over yet and we must promote safety on the farm when spring arrives. The days are getting longer, calving season has begun and planting season is approaching. Spring is a busy season for many farmers and livestock producers, and there is no better time to keep safety in mind. Follow these five farm safety tips to ensure a successful transition to summer harvest season.

1. Avoid driving tractors and ATVs on the road at dawn and dusk.

This is the peak time for drivers commuting to and from work. If you must be on the road, make sure your equipment has plenty of reflective material, use your headlights, wear your seatbelt and carry your license and insurance cards. When possible, have a friend or family member act as an escort vehicle.

2. Watch where you step.

It's not just the cow pies in the field you should watch out for. When working in potential risky spaces like manure pits, grain bins or logging areas, pay extra attention to your surroundings to avoid dangerous gases, loose footing or falling hazards.

3. Follow the label.

Whether you are working with pesticides, vaccinations or fertilizers, always follow the label exactly. Be sure to wear the proper personal protective equipment, handle and store materials appropriately, and keep all supplies away from young children.

4. Create a Farm Aid Kit.

While many farmers keep duct tape and baling twine handy during the spring, adding a few other materials can create an essential Farm Aid Kit. Grab a travel bag and add a fire extinguisher, bottles of water and basic first aid materials. Keep an information card on hand that includes emergency contact numbers as well as written directions on how to get to the farm, field and other work areas.

5. Take care of yourself.

Long hours in the field can lead many farmers to neglect basic self-care. Make eating regular meals and getting an adequate amount of sleep priorities this spring to prevent careless accidents. As the temperatures rise, remember to stay hydrated both in and out of the field.

Prescribed Burning

Today, fire combined with management, drought, and grazing, is the key to maintaining grasslands. In modern grassland management, the role of prescribed burning must be part of a long-term management plan. Management decisions determine how, when, and why fire will be used.

Benefits of Prescribed Burning Research and experience have shown that fire can be used as a major management practice for native and introduced grasslands, hay meadows, and establishing and managing new native grass stands. It can recycle nutrients tied up in old plant growth, stimulate tillering, control many woody and herbaceous plants, improve grazing distribution, reduce wildfire hazards, improve wildlife habitat, and increase livestock production in stocker operations. To gain these benefits, fire must be used under specified conditions and with proper timing. This is termed “prescribed burning.”

Prescribed burning influences what vegetation will be present by when it is used, how it is combined with other practices, and what use is made of the land. Managing to include fire will result in different vegetation responses under different management strategies. When multiple benefits are desired (example: livestock production and wildlife habitat), management compromises will be needed.

Burning in late spring to remove the buildup of old growth and/or litter will reduce the possibility of large and extremely hot, damaging wildfires. Wildfires occurring in grasslands that are routinely burned are easier to control and less damaging to plants.

Native Hay Meadows Prescribed burning should be used on native hay meadows to stimulate tillering of desirable species, control weeds and brush, and remove old mulch left by haying. Timing of the burn is the same as native grass pastures. A program of burning 2 or more consecutive years, then waiting 2 to 4 years until needed again may be used to provide the needed benefits.

With no burning over the long term, prairie grasses and forbs can be completely displaced by 100 percent tree and shrub cover in less than 40 years.

Properly timed burns are done when the warm season perennials are starting to green up. This allows them to grow quickly so the bare soil surface will only be exposed for a short period of time. This reduces the erosion hazard, reduces evaporation, and allows water to penetrate the soil.

Summary

Prescribed burning is an excellent management practice for grassland. Properly used, it can be a cost-effective method for increasing the productivity of rangeland as well as controlling many undesirable plants. It also can reduce the hazards of wildfires and benefit domestic livestock and wildlife. Safety of people on and around the burn, personal property, as well as public roads must be considered.





Clover Corner

Lindsey Mueeting
County Extension Agent
4-H Youth Development



Happy March! The weather has been beautiful and I am ready to get outside more! I hope this means extra time for you to be working with, creating or practicing with your selected 4-H projects! Remember you can drop and add projects until May 1.

Thank you for your patience and ideas as we continue to navigate meeting during COVID protocols. There have been some projects and clubs that have done great things! We are still planning on in person summer events at this time, stay tuned as we will update you as more information from the state is released! Keep going on the 4-H Development Fund - many scholarships and extra activities we have are made possible because of these funds!

~Lindsey

Match WEEK

Match Week is March 22-26 and holds incredible opportunity for McPherson County 4-H. During that time, McPherson County Community Foundation will match donations made to our endowment fund—our long-term savings—and with your help, we could potentially receive up to \$20,000 of the \$100,000 match available. Here’s how Match Day works:

- * Cash or Checks to MCCF for 4-H Youth Development can be brought to the Community Foundation (1233 N. Main, McPherson) from 9am-4pm each day or postmarked no later than March 26. Donations may also be made with credit card. All donations are tax deductible.
- * Matching funds will be given to our organization based on a proportional basis. For example, if \$100,000 is raised and our organization received 10% of the total donations, we will receive \$10,000 matching funds
- * Minimum donation amount per donor for a match is \$25. There is no limit on the amount of funding donors may contribute to the nonprofit organization’s endowed fund.



Walk Kansas 2021 - March 28 – May 22

Grab 5 of your friends, relatives or co-workers to make a team of six and join in this 8-week fitness challenge. This is open to all ages and you do not have to be a McPherson County or even Kansas resident to participate! Register your team at www.walkkansasonline.org Educational information will be shared throughout the event. Cost is \$10.00 per person with T-shirts available at an extra cost. For more information contact the Extension Office 620-241-1523.

4-H Calendar

March

- 8-22 4-H Club Day Entries Open
- 9 4-H Club Day Interview Class- Zoom
- 11 Bring Your 4-H Projects to Life- Feeding Fido
- 11 & 25 Jr Leaders Exchange Meeting with Wisconsin
- 22 4-H Club Day Judging Contests Open
- 22-26 Match Week - MCCF

4-H Council

The next meeting will be held April 1 at 7 PM. Please be sure to have youth and adult reps available from your club! At this point we plan to host this meeting in person, but you are asked to wear a mask in the building.

4-H Online

The system has been updated to allow families to add and drop projects in 4-H Online! Log into your account at v2.4honline.com. Adding and dropping for the year must be done by May 1. All final project lists for 4-H fair exhibit eligibility will be printed on May 2. If you have not paid the program fee to the State, please do this ASAP! Contact Lindsey with any questions!

Fair Time is Coming!

Thank you to all the wonderful fair theme ideas that clubs submitted. 4-H Council voted and we have our top three themes!! Watch your email and Facebook for a voting Link! The top three choices are:

Fair-ology
Dancing with the Steers
Flying High With 4-H

Local College Scholarships

Attention High School Seniors! Our McPherson County 4-H Scholarship application is due to the Extension Office by April 1. Thank you to the Development Fund for providing this opportunity! The form can be found online: <https://www.mcpherson.ksu.edu> under 4-H Youth Development, Awards and Recognition, Scholarships.

Discovery Days

Discovery Days will be held virtually this year, June 1-4, 2021. This event is open to anyone 13 and older before January 1, 2021. More information will be published as it is available.

Bring Your 4-H Projects to LIFE! “Feeding Fido For The Fair!”

The next session will be held on Thursday, March 11 at 7 PM as we learn from the K-State Department of Grain Science & Industry about their Pet Food Program! **Be sure to watch email and the McPherson County 4-H Facebook page for registration link.** Remember, you do NOT have to currently be enrolled in the featured project to come explore and learn with us! We try to record all sessions, so please register even if you have a scheduled conflict.

Publish Your News

If you have news (successful events), dates or activities to share with other 4-H'ers, get them in the 4-H Clover Corner! Articles, pictures or dates you would like in April publication need to be to Lindsey by March 22. Email them to Lmueting@ksu.edu





4-H Development Fund



The annual 4-H Development Fund Drive for McPherson County started in February! Each 4-H club has a list of donors to contact. It is vital that all contacts are made to help us reach our goals and update our lists!! The goal of the development fund is to get youth out sharing their 4-H story and practicing communication skills as they complete each task. We know that there are some businesses that an in person visit is not feasible this year. We do however ask that all businesses on your list are contacted either in person, by phone or, this year, mail.

The Development Fund is an important part of the 4-H program. Contributions help in the following ways:

- Scholarships to 4-H Camp, Discovery Days, KYLF, National 4-H Congress, and High School Seniors
- New this year- 2 curriculum books for each member
- Fair Premiums
- Educational materials and supplies
- Record Book Awards
- T-Shirts for all new members
- Donor Recognition
- Leader Trainings/Recognition
- Family Fun Events and other activities

Beef - Beef tagging and weigh in will be by appointment this year on April 1. Please make an appointment with Lindsey for what time (8:30-6:30) you will be planning to weigh & tag on the fairgrounds. All market animals must be tagged. We can tag any breeding animals at this time as well.

Sheep/Meat Goats - Weigh-In and Tagging will take place in the Fairgrounds Block Building from 3:30 to 6:30 pm on Wednesday, April 28. Please make arrangements to have all your market animals there that day to be tagged!

Swine - Swine Tagging will take place on the fairgrounds on Tuesday April 27 from 4:30-7:00 PM.

Horse- Horse IDs

Must be signed by May 1! (Turn in April 30)

Mark your calendars as the SC District Horse show has been set for July 1 in Hutchinson. Please remember to complete level 1 testing prior to June. For more information contact the Extension Office. The 4-H horse rule book can be found at:
<https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/S133.pdf>

Youth Livestock Quality Assurance - REQUIRED

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) is a national, multi-species youth livestock quality assurance program. It is open to youth 8-21 years of age and focuses on food safety, animal well-being, and character development. (7 year olds will complete as a county requirement) This training will be required yearly for all Beef, Sheep, Swine and Goat exhibitors prior to the 4-H Fair. We will offer some in person trainings as well as an option to complete online. This is also required for state shows.

An in person training will be held on Monday, April 5 at the Extension Office. We will begin at 10:45 so we are done by noon! Watch newsletters and email for future opportunities to complete this requirement!

Livestock ID's

Are due into the Office on April 30. Horse ID's require a signature from an agent and must have photos. (You must bring in the original ID for a signature, not a copy). So make sure you get these filled out and turned into the office sooner rather than later. Late ID's 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 ID's are due June 1.



4-H Camp

We are in the process of planning for Oz-Some 4-H Camp 2021! We are to receive an update in March on the final status of camp and capacity numbers- but get June 24-27 on your calendar now!

AGES - Classification for camp eligibility will be calculated by 4-H Age. Rookie camp will be available for those 4-H age 7 and 8. Regular camp for 4-H age youth 9-12.

FULL TIME CAMP

9-12 year olds- Camp is planned for June 24-27 for regular campers. While costs and check-in times have not yet been finalized- we anticipate a mid afternoon camp start time and no increase to the 2020 advertised cost- \$223 (\$125 with local scholarship thanks to Tractor Supply and MKC!)



ROOKIE CAMP

7 and 8 year olds - We have a special opportunity just for you... Rookie Camp! We plan to offer two sessions for this amazing camp again this year!! Session 1 will be June 24 (afternoon) to June 25 (evening) and Session 2 will be June 26 (morning) to June 27 (afternoon). We anticipate costs to not increase from 2020 (\$108 and just \$60 with the local 4-H scholarship).

COUNSELORS

ATTENTION youth 14-18- You may apply to be a counselor at OzSome 4-H Camp! Applications will be available in March. Camp counselor training will be June 23-24 at Rock Springs. The counselor fee will be paid this year by the McPherson County 4-H Development Fund.

4-H Club Day

Don't forget to be preparing for our 2021 Club Day! Check out <https://www.mcpherson.k-state.edu/4-h/events/index.html> for a Basics guide and resources for creating presentations (right column of page).

MULTI COUNTY 4-H

HARVEY | MCPHERSON | MARION


VIRTUAL CLUB DAYS

HOSTED ON FLIPGRID


4-H CLUB DAY IS AN EVENT WHICH GIVES PARTICIPANTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT THEIR 4-H PROJECTS AND DEMONSTRATE THEIR TALENTS AND ABILITIES. THIS YEAR CLASSES THAT WILL BE JUDGED AND AWARDED RIBBONS ARE: PROJECT TALKS, DEMONSTRATIONS/ILLUSTRATIONS, PERFORMING ARTS, NEW CLASSES: SENIOR INTERVIEW AND 4-H REELS (ALL AGES)

SITE OPENS FOR ENTRIES: MARCH 8TH AT 12:01 AM
SITE CLOSES FOR ENTRIES: MARCH 22ND AT 11:59 PM
ENTRIES JUDGED: MARCH 23RD THROUGH 31ST.

INTERVIEW EVENT: JUDGED VIA ZOOM ON TUESDAY, MARCH 9TH



K-STATE
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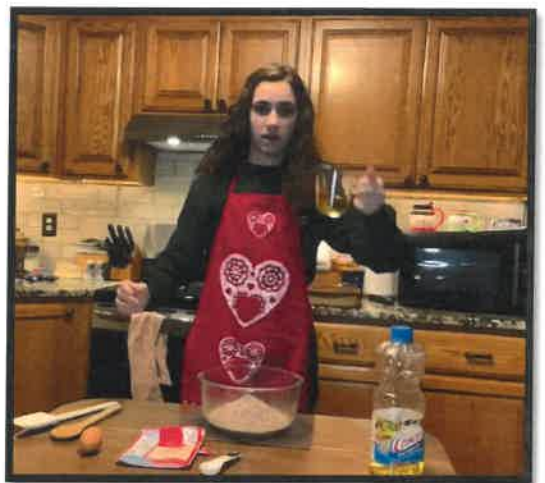
Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact Anne Pitts (316-284-6930).

February 4-H Program Highlights



Bring Your 4-H Projects to LIFE!
 Continued in February with a presentation on Entomology!
 Make sure to catch these each month on the 2nd Thursday!
 We eat insects??? Yup!!! 😊
 Thank you Dr. Marshall!!

County-Wide Exploring/Cloverbuds leader, Rachel, led members in an activity to learn about the Foods and Nutrition Project! Rachel has done an amazing job adapting lessons to virtual means by providing supply kits and instructional videos!!



Super Secret Ingredient Challenge

K-STATE | 4-H GROWS HERE
 Research and Extension

Participants Learned About:
 Substituting Ingredients
 Doubling Recipes
 Using a Blender Independently
 4 Tbls = 1/4 Cup
 Freezing Recipes



Jr Leaders have begun their Virtual Exchange with Wisconsin 4-H members! The teens are having a great time on their sessions. If you would like to join in the remaining fun, contact Lindsey!



Great job to our 4-H'ers who participated in this super fun cooking challenge! Members received a bag with a secret ingredient which they later found was either oatmeal, Greek yogurt, cream cheese or applesauce! Then let the cooking begin! Thank you, Ellie, for setting this up on our new FCS Facebook Page!

Family and Consumer Science Program Series

LIVING WELL TOGETHER

Join K-State Research and Extension FCS Agents and guest speakers virtually every Thursday at 6:45pm (CT) for the last sessions of this series.

Check Your Credit

March 4 @ 6:45p

Check Your Credit is a campaign that educates Kansans about the importance of regularly checking their credit reports and instructs them on how to access their free credit report. Learn more on how you can receive educational information and reminders to check out your own credit.

Med Instead of Meds

March 11 @ 6:45p

The Mediterranean-style eating pattern has been shown to promote health and decrease risk of many chronic diseases. Learn more about eating the Mediterranean diet, including seven simple steps to eating the Med way everyday.

Family Meal Times

March 18 @ 6:45p

Family meals can bring a variety of feelings and meaning to everyone; but they are essential to family life. Learn more about opportunities for family members to come together, strengthen ties and build better relationships.

Science of Sleep

March 25 @ 6:45p

Your body craves sleep, much like it hungers for food. But what happens to our mind and physical body when we do not get enough of it? Join us as we discuss the science and benefits of sleep.

REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS AT:



<https://bit.ly/LivingWellTogether-MAR>

Hosted by Northeast Region FCS Agents

K-STATE
Research and Extension

Family & Consumer
Sciences

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

AGENT CONTACT INFORMATION

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smarston@ksu.edu
Radio: Friday, 7:25 a.m.



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