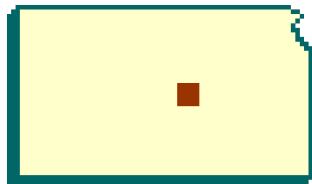


# McPherson County



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**NOVEMBER 2017**



## Ag News

**Shad Marston**  
**County Extension Agent**  
**Agriculture and Natural Resources**

### Pruning Workshop

We have had a lot of interest for our Tree Pruning Workshop which is open to all our community members and it will be on November 9<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:30 pm, so please mark this down on your calendar. The meeting will be hold right here in McPherson at the Extension's Office meeting room. Tim McDonnell a **Community Forestry Coordinator**, from the Kansas Forest Service along with our local City Forester, Kody Kraemer will cover the topics of Pruning, methods and reasons for pruning and their proper techniques. There is no cost to attend this workshop but please RSVP the Extension office.

### Wheat Varieties for Kansas and the Great Plains Book Available

We currently have 2017 books available for \$7.50 (retail value \$15.00) and 2018 books are available for \$15.00.



### Wheat Test Plots

We have all 3 wheat test plots planted for the 2018 McPherson County Wheat Plots. We have over 24 varieties of wheat planted this year and the locations of the plots are the Galle Plot, North of Moundridge at 1¼ mile North of 23<sup>rd</sup> and Cheyenne on the West side of the road, the Schroeder Plot of Inman along the north side of Cheyenne between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave and finally, the Patrick plot 1¼ mile North of Marquette on the east side of the blacktop. Plan to stop and take a look at the growth of the wheat of the different varieties.

# Preparing for Winter

## ***Control Broadleaf Weeds in Lawns in early November***

Early November is the most effective time to control broadleaf weeds in our lawns. Unwanted plants are always easier to kill when plants are small. Dandelions usually produce a flush of new plants in late September, and the winter annual weeds henbit and chickweed should have germinated in October. Since these young plants are small, they can be easily controlled with herbicides such as 2,4-D or combination products (Trimec, Weed-B-Gon, Weed-Out) that contain 2,4-D, MCPP and Dicamba. Even established dandelions are more easily controlled now than in the spring because all plants are now taking starch made from the leaves down to the roots this time of year. Herbicides will translocate to the roots as well and will kill the plant from the roots up. It's best to choose a day that is 50 degrees or higher. When the weed is still growing, the more weed killer will be moved down from the leaves to the roots. Cold temperatures will slow or stop this process. Weed Free Zone (also sold under the name of Speed Zone) contains the three active ingredients mentioned above, plus carfentrazone. It will give a quicker response than the other products mentioned especially as temperatures approach 50 degrees.

## ***Winterizing your Lawnmower***

Some of us are done mowing grass for the year, unless you are like me and use your lawn mower to windrow your leaves. Be sure to service your mower before putting it away, just following a few easy steps could save you lots in the spring.

Step 1. The fuel we leave in our gas tanks need to be treated with a gasoline stabilizer or drained on all our gasoline-powered engines. If you keep your mower in the basement during the winter, you should remove the fuel regardless of how much is left because storing it inside could be a fire hazard. Untreated gasoline can become thick and gummy and cause us problems later on. If you store the mower in a garage or shed, it's better to fill the tank with gas, then top it off with a fuel stabilizer, available at home centers and gas stations. For good measure, run the mower for a few minutes so that the stabilized fuel can work its way through the carburetor.



Step 2. Routine oil changes will help extend the life of any engine, as will changing or cleaning the air filter. Spark plugs used to be more of a concern, but their improved technology has reached the point where you only need to change the spark plugs every few years. If your equipment has a battery, clean the battery terminals, which usually corrode during the season. A wire-bristle brush is a good tool for doing this. The battery can then be removed or connected to a battery monitor that will keep it charged over winter. If you remove the battery, be sure to store it in a protected location for the winter and off the cement (a cool basement works best).

Step 3. Ideally, you should be in the habit of cleaning the deck throughout the season because keeping the blade housing clean helps ensure optimal mower performance. But this task is essential before winter to prevent moisture in the grass clippings from causing rust and corrosion to the underside of the deck. Avoid using water for cleaning purposes because it will promote rust. Always, lubricate all moving parts and spray rust inhibitor on the blade and surrounding unpainted metal parts. Now is also an excellent time to check belts for excessive wear and movement of any deck bearings. Remember, to examine and sharpen mower blades so they'll be ready for next spring. Winterizing your mower now will save time and money in the spring and is a very important part of maintaining its longevity. When spring rolls around your mower will run like a champ.

## **Hunter Safety Education Courses**

Hunter Safety Courses are being offered in the area. Please visit [www.kdwpt.state.ks.us](http://www.kdwpt.state.ks.us) for more information on these courses.

Some upcoming classes are:

McPherson - November 4 & 5; Contact 620.694.0921

Reno County - November 10 & 11; registration can be found online at [www.safehunters.com](http://www.safehunters.com)

Sedgwick County - November 10 & 11; registration can be found online at [www.safehunters.com](http://www.safehunters.com)

# What Cow Calf Producers Should Be Thinking About

BEEF -- Tips by Dale Blasi, Extension Beef Specialist

## ***Cow herd management for spring-calving cows***

- In late fall and early winter, start feeding supplement to mature cows using these guidelines: • Dry grass — 1-2 pounds (lb.) per day of a 40% crude protein (CP) supplement • Dry grass — 3-4 lb. per day of a 20% CP supplement • Dry grass — 10 lb. good non-legume hay, no supplement needed
- Compare supplements based on cost per pound of nutrient.
- Utilize crop residues.
- Strip-graze or rotate cattle to improve grazing efficiency.
- Cows in average body condition can be grazed at 1-2 acres per cow for 30 days, assuming normal weather. Available forage is directly related to grain production levels.
- Limiting nutrients are usually rumen degradable protein, trace minerals and vitamin A.
- Control lice.



## ***General management***

- ◆ Document your cost of production by participating in Standardized Performance Analysis (SPA) programs.
- ◆ Review management decisions; lower your costs per unit of production.
- ◆ Check your financial management plan and make appropriate adjustments before the end of the year.

## Calving Books

With winter approaching fast, many cow/calf producers are thinking about plans for gathering, working and pregnancy checking all females, sorting cattle for winter feeding groups and planning for spring calving. K-State Research and Extension offers three booklet options to help organize your cow/calf operation and collect calving information. Each come as a pocket-sized booklet that reveals a record keeping system for recording and tracking calving data. Everyone in my family knows where the calving book is to be located at my house and my family's world stops, when the calving book is lost or not in it's safe spot. Here are some details about each book.

**2018 K-State Integrated Resource Management Books - "Red Books"** are the cat's meow of pocket calving books. Their durable red cover has proven to be a worthy design after many years of abuse from the mud, rain and the many different tagging conditions one might occur. Red books have a lot of features including a gestation table, yearly calendar, breeding records, calf info and so much more. It even makes a great gift. Cost \$6.00

**K-State Cow/Calf Record Book** is another pocket sized booklet that features a stiff, thick paper shell. This easy to write in book has larger boxes and text which aids in recording and reading your notes when out in the field. This Cow/Calf Record book allows producers to write down important details like calving info, cow and bull inventories, vaccination and treatment records, along with udder, body, and docility scores. Cost \$4.00

**K-State Field Record Books is affectionately known as the "White Calving Books"**. This books are much less durable and have less space for recording information. "White Calving Books" are used to record information and allows cattle producers to chart field data. Some then use this book in conjunction with an electronic record keeping system to effectively manage their herds year after year. Cost \$0.00

# Best Options for Controlling Pigweeds in Soybeans

Pigweed control in soybeans used to be easy before the development and increase in glyphosate resistance, but those days are now in the past. Many fields have been overgrown with pigweed in recent years, however the pigweeds weren't quite as bad in 2017 as in previous years. Grower adoption of new management strategies and technologies (with maybe a little luck from weather) has probably helped with pigweed management, but control continues to be a challenge.



**Figure 1. Glyphosate-resistant Palmer amaranth in soybeans. Photo by Dallas Peterson, K-State Research and Extension.**

Part of the difficulty in achieving season-long pigweed control is their biological characteristics. Waterhemp and Palmer amaranth are both prolific seed producers, so many fields have extremely high seedbanks due to past control failures. The pigweeds also have a fair amount of seed dormancy and will start to germinate in April, but continue to germinate through the entire growing season. Once emerged, plants can grow rapidly, so the window of opportunity for effective post-emergence control can be very short.

The most successful and consistent pigweed management programs in soybeans will be an integrated approach that utilizes a diversity of herbicides and timely applications, along with good cultural practices. One of the keys to managing pigweeds is to stay ahead of them. There are a number of good residual soybean herbicides for pre-plant and pre-emergence pigweed control. However, they require good rainfall for activation and rarely provide complete season-long control. In a no-till situation, you may want to consider a split application of residual herbicides, with a pre-plant application in mid- to late-April followed by another application at planting time. This approach provides a better chance for activation and control of early emerging pigweed, along with extended residual control later into the season.

Post-emergence treatments need to be applied before pigweeds exceed 3 to 4 inches tall. Whereas, glyphosate used to control large pigweeds, no other post-emergence herbicide is consistently effective once pigweeds exceed 3 inches. An overlapping residual also can be included in the post-emergence treatment, especially if a split application wasn't used before and at planting time. Sequential post-emergence treatments also may be an option depending on product guidelines.

There are many different herbicide options that can be fit into the program. In addition, several different herbicide resistant traits are currently available, or likely will be available in soybeans in the future. Each trait has its unique strengths and weaknesses, but a multiple pronged approach utilizing a diversity of herbicides and timely applications will be critical for success regardless of trait technology. A program approach utilizing different herbicide modes of action will also help sustain the effectiveness of the new technologies further into the future.

Dallas Peterson, Weed Management Specialist – [dpeterso@ksu.edu](mailto:dpeterso@ksu.edu)

Doug Shoup, Southeast Area Crops and Soils Specialist — [dshoup@ksu.edu](mailto:dshoup@ksu.edu)





# Clover Corner

**Lindsey Friesen**  
**County Extension Agent**  
**4-H Youth Development**



It is hard to believe cold weather and a busy time full of Holidays will soon be here. Hopefully you have been able to spend some extra time this fall planning new 4-H projects and enjoying the outdoors. Now is a perfect time to invite a friend to see what 4-H is all about and to set goals (and write them down for your record books!) about 4-H projects! If you have ideas for the new 4-H year that you would like to see in the County, visit with Lindsey or your clubs Council Rep and have them bring it to the next meeting!

~Lindsey

## County-Wide Events

Officer's Training, 4-H Day, Fun Nights... the list goes on! McPherson County 4-H needs YOU to help plan these events! What do you want to see done, what would be an exciting activity to add? Each county activity has a committee to help plan and run the event. EVERYONE is invited to participate on at least one committee; you do not need to be a 4-H Council member. Please talk to your club leader or the Extension Office for more information. Sign-up is found at <https://tinyurl.com/4hcommittees> and is due November 22!

## 4-H Enrollment

It's time to ENROLL!!! Please remember that all enrollment will be done online again this year. Please log in at <http://ks.4honline.com> to your family account. You will be able to re-enroll each 4-H member and adult volunteer as well as add youth to your account. Remember that this process will look a little different this year as the Kansas 4-H Program Fee payment is required. Please let Lindsey know what questions you have and try to complete this process ASAP so we can update all of our 2017-18 lists! If you do not have access to the internet or need help with this process you are welcome to visit us in the Extension Office!

## 4-H Council

The next 4-H Council meeting will be on January 4, 2018. Note that 4-H Council will be meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of January, February, April, June, August and October. Leaders - please turn in your council representatives ASAP if you haven't already! Congratulations to the 2018 Council Officers:

Max Harman - President

Rachel Yenni - Vice President

Rachel Harman - Secretary

Mason OBrien- Treasurer

Kruse, Shandy and Smith Families- Hosts

Thank you to your dedication to McPherson County 4-H!

## It's NOT a Life Sentence!



McPherson County is in need of more county-wide project meetings! Do you have a skill you could share with other 4-H'ers or are willing to learn along side them? I would love to see volunteers step-up to help teach projects county-wide as many clubs have trouble finding club leaders for each and every project. Let's encourage our 4-H'ers to learn and grow as a group! Maybe you are already hosting meetings for a club and could open them up to any 4-H'er, or maybe you have a certain project or activity you would like to share with others. No matter if you would like to host one meeting or be willing to take on the entire year, please talk with Lindsey!

### November Dates

- \* November 4 - Officer Training & Family Event
- \* November 5 - Achievement Night (4:30 pm)
- \* November 10 - Office Closed
- \* November 17-19 - KYLF, Rock Springs
- \* November 23-24 - Office Closed

### 4-H Fair Theme

Time to take ownership in our 4-H Fair Theme! There will again be a contest to determine the theme for 2018. Here are the details:

- Each club will submit one theme to the Extension Office by January 30.
- 4-H Council will decide on the top 3 themes
- Each 4-H member can vote on their favorite theme at 4-H Club Day!



## Loaves and Fishes

February is the month that 4-H Club's serve Loaves and Fishes. We still need clubs to sign up for the following dates:

February 4	CC	_____
February 11	_____	_____
February 18	LEB	_____
February 25	_____	_____

Please contact Lindsey with what date your club would like to volunteer! Clubs can work together and double up on weeks!

### Newsletter Deadline

Please get Lindsey all of your information (happenings, news, project meeting opportunities) to be published in the December/January Clover Corner Newsletter no later than Nov. 17. Email information to [friesenL@ksu.edu](mailto:friesenL@ksu.edu) or bring to the office.

### Multi-County 4-H Club Day

This event will again be held in Newton at Chisholm Middle School on February 17 with McPherson, Marion and Harvey counties. There will be local and area awards during this day! Plan on judging beginning at 8:45 with the goal of starting the Champion Run-Offs at Noon. This is a fantastic event that everyone can participate in! There will also be Pickle Power, Horticulture and Photography Judging at the event this year! Look for registration info soon which will be done at an online link!

### Junior Leaders

Thanks to everyone who attended the Worlds of Fun Leadership event! If you are 12 and older- watch your emails as we will be planning more activities soon! We will again be "Caroling 4 Cans" in December. This is a lot of fun and a great way to collect items for our local food bank while spreading Christmas cheer! Remember - any 4-H'er 12 and older (4-H age) is invited to participate with this awesome group!



# Living Well

**Jana McKinney**  
**County Extension Agent**  
**Family & Consumer Science**



## Turkey Purchasing Pointers

Whether purchasing a fresh or frozen turkey, consumers can be confident they are buying a quality product. The decision of which to purchase is based on personal preference in price and convenience.

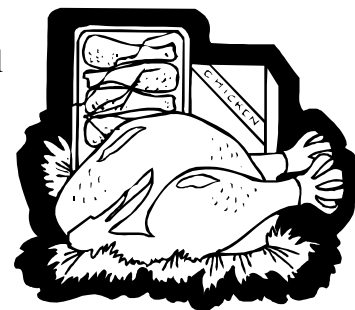
Oven-ready fresh and frozen birds are tucked into snug, air and water resistant plastic wraps immediately following processing. Air is removed as bags are sealed and shrunk so they fit the turkey almost as tightly as its own skin.

Frozen turkeys are flash frozen immediately after processing to 0 degrees or below and held at that temperature until packaged. The meat, once defrosted, is virtually at the same freshness as the day it was processed.

Fresh turkeys are deep chilled after packaging. They have a shorter shelf life and are, therefore, usually more expensive.

Whether you buy a fresh or frozen turkey, proper cooking and handling of the bird will ensure a delicious holiday meal.

### *Frozen Turkey:*



- Store at 0 degrees F. or below.
- Purchase during special value sales and store the bird in the freezer until the thawing time begins.
- Thaw under refrigeration, in cold water, or the microwave.
- Refrigeration: Allow approximately 24 hours per five pounds to thaw in the refrigerator.
- Cold Water: Allow approximately 30 minutes per pound to thaw in cold water, which is changed every 30 minutes. Do not use warm or hot water and be sure to change the water every 30 minutes.
- Microwave: Follow the microwave manufacturer's directions and begin to roast the turkey immediately following the microwave process.

### *Fresh Turkey:*

- Stored at 26 degrees F. and above.
- Purchase for convenience because thawing is not required. Cost may be slightly more due to special handling required by the store.
- Order in advance to be assured of availability.
- Place fresh raw poultry in a refrigerator that maintains 40 degrees F and use it within the time frame on the package label or freeze the poultry at 0 degrees F.



*An excellent educational brochure called  
“Take the Guesswork Out of Roasting a Turkey” is available free  
of charge at the Extension Office.*

## Do You Have Renter's Insurance?



When disaster strikes, it doesn't differentiate between rented buildings and owned homes. Renters face the same risk as homeowners. Your landlord may have insurance, but it only protects the building structure, not the personal items inside. Renters insurance can protect your belongings in case of disaster.

There are several types of residential insurance policies. The policy is designed for renters covers losses to your personal property from 16 types of perils: Fire or lightning, Windstorm or hail, Explosion, Damage caused by aircraft, vehicles; Smoke, Vandalism, Theft, Weight of ice, snow or sleet; Water damage – basically almost anything. Except, Floods and Earthquakes which require a separate rider.

**Actual cash value vs. replacement cost:** Always tell your agent about the valuable items you own. One thing to consider is whether the insurance company will offer "actual cash value" (ACV) or "replacement cost coverage" for your belongings. As the name implies, ACV coverage will pay only for what your property was worth at the time it was damaged or stolen. So, if you bought a television five years ago for \$500, it would be worth significantly less today. While you'd still need to spend about \$500 for a new TV, your insurance company will pay only for what the old one is worth, minus your deductible.

Replacement cost coverage, on the other hand, will pay what it actually costs to replace the items you lost (minus the deductible). In some regions, most insurers write ACV coverage. In others, they'll quote you replacement cost coverage by default. Replacement cost coverage will cost you more in premiums, but it will also pay out more if you ever need to file a claim. Let your agent know about any particularly valuable items you have. Jewelry, antiques and electronics might be covered only up to an amount that won't pay for their replacement.

**Keeping your premium low.** Just like any other type of homeowners insurance policy, your renters insurance premium depends on a number of factors: where you live, your deductible, your insurance company and whether you need any additional coverage. But, it is very affordable! Please, if you rent, purchase Renter's Insurance so you are covered.

## Thrifty Thanksgiving

This holiday season, almost everyone is looking for ways to save money. How can you skimp on expenses while enjoying quality time with your family and friends? Read on for some penny-pinching tips for hosting this year's feast!

- \$\$ Get a good estimate on how many guests you'll be feeding. If you were left with loads of leftovers last year, reduce the amount of food you make this season. Consider making just enough, with a little extra of a few of your own family favorites that will freeze well in case they are left over. You'll save time and money!
- \$\$ Make your shopping list now. You can begin to watch for sales, clip coupons, and shop for those items that you can buy ahead for the big day. If you start early enough, you may not have to pay full price for a single item on your Thanksgiving day list! When you shop ahead a little at a time, it's also not such a big hit to your budget.
- \$\$ Save room in your freezer for a good deal on a turkey. If you have room in your freezer, you may even be able to take advantage of getting your turkey for free! Some grocery stores offer them free to customers who spend a certain amount of money during a promotional period several weeks before the holiday.
- \$\$ When guests ask if they can bring anything, say "yes!" You could even make a point to ask your family and friends to bring a specific type of food to the meal. This way, no one bears all of the burden for feeding a large meal to a crowd. Arrange for out-of-town guests to bring non-perishable foods. Even if you want to cook all of the main dishes yourself, you could ask your guests to bring the bread, vegetable and fruit trays, beverages and dessert. These can often be as expensive as the rest of the meal.



## Medicare Reminder - Part D

Your drug plan is changing in 2018, **it is very important that you review all of your options.** Medicare private drug plans can change their costs and the list of drugs that they cover **every year.**

Most people can change Medicare drug plans only during Fall Open Enrollment, which runs from October 15 - December 7, 2017. It takes about 15 minutes a person to check it; bring a current drug list and your Medicare card.

Even if you are satisfied with your current plan, you should check to see if there is another plan in your area that offers better coverage at a lower price.

Jana is a SHICK (Sr Health Insurance Counselor of Kansas) Counselor. This service is available free of charge and is confidential and unbiased. If you would like help shopping for Medicare or with Medicare in general, please call 620-241-1523 to schedule an appointment.

## Hand Washing is Important

Hand washing can keep you healthy during this festive holiday season. In case your family has told you, the cold and flu season are back, stronger than ever. And, with the delay in getting the flu vaccine, it is more important than ever to practice good hand washing to prevent the spread of viruses as well as reduce the risk of food borne illness.

So, just how do you wash your hands the “correct way”? Here’s the basics—

- ❁ Use warm water and soap. Antibacterial soap isn’t necessary.
- ❁ Rub and scrub between fingers, under fingernails, and backs of hands. Sing “Jingle Bells” or “Happy Birthday” as you wash. These songs take about twenty seconds—which is what you need—twenty seconds of friction for thorough cleaning.
- ❁ Rinse well and dry with disposable paper towels or a clean cloth towel.



Kansas Tobacco Quitline

[www.QuitNow.net/Kansas](http://www.QuitNow.net/Kansas)

1-800-QUIT-NOW (784-8669)

7 days a week, 24 hours a day

Quitting tobacco use is one of the best things you can do for your health. And, it’s never too late! The Great American Smoke Out is in November.

## Take Steps to Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning is the most common chemical poisoning in the United States, causing hundreds of deaths and thousands of non-fatal poisonings each year. The best way to prevent CO poisoning is to follow these prevention guidelines:



Have your furnace or boiler serviced annually to be sure it is working properly. Heating system maintenance also can save energy and reduce the chances of the need for an emergency call to the heating contractor because you don't have any heat.

Don't allow automobiles to run in attached garages even with the door open.

Don't use unvented gas or kerosene appliances indoors. Although some manufacturers claim that it is safe, it is often illegal and is discouraged by many safety experts.

Installing a carbon monoxide alarm can provide extra protection. CO alarms are available in battery-operated and AC models as well as digital displays, that either directly plug into an outlet or have a cord. Models of both type meet UL 2034-98. Install the CO alarm near sleeping areas so that the alarm is easily heard by people during the night when they are sleeping.