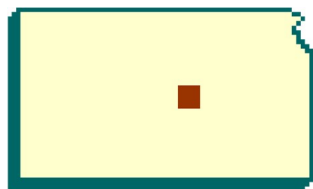


McPherson County



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APRIL 2022



Clover Corner

Lindsey Muefting
County Extension Agent
4-H Youth Development



The weather is warming and I have enjoyed some good time outside lately. Once we hit May it seems like the remaining portion of the 4-H year flies by! Take this month to really plan out your 4-H projects and goals! I am loving seeing registrations opening for summer camps and events as well as planning many programming opportunities at the Extension Office and around our communities for summer! Be watching for all that you can participate in or help with! If you have ideas for a project meeting or session you would be willing to lead for our members or community, please let me know!

~Lindsey

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 2022, this must be done by May 1. Please contact Lindsey with any questions!

4-H Calendar

April

- 7 County 4-H Council
- 14 Bring Your 4-H Projects to Life
- 18 Jr. Leader K-State Trip
- 27 Swine/Meat Goat/Sheep Tagging
- 29 Livestock IDS due (May 1 is Sunday)

May

- 1 Add/Drop Enrollment Deadline

“Dancing with the Steers” McPherson County 4-H Fair

The McPherson County 4-H Fair will be held July 22-25, 2022. YOU have decided on the 4-H Fair theme... now it is time for you to create what will be the cover of the 2022 fair book. Covers can be anything from hand drawn to computer generated, so everybody can participate!

Rules for the contest include:

- Cover must be 5.5"x8.5" portrait orientation
- Include the theme, McPherson County 4-H Fair and dates.
- Designs can be hand drawn, computer generated or both, use your imagination!
- The cover may include color

This contest is open to all current McPherson County 4-H members. Two top entries will be selected and be awarded cash prizes of \$40 and \$20 for 1st and 2nd. Submit your cover by April 25 to the Extension Office. You may email, mail or bring the entry by the office.

In The News

If you have something you would like in the next Clover Corner (May) please email the information to Lindsey by April 20. Project news, upcoming meetings and events or accomplishments can all be shared in this newsletter! Get published to keep others informed!

4-H Council

The next meeting will be held April 7 at 7 PM. If you are an Officer- please make sure to complete your tasks, arrive 10 minutes early and be ready for the meeting. If you have questions on this please let Lindsey know!

Development Fund

ONE MONTH LEFT! The development fund will end on May 1 and we have only received a handful of donations into the Extension Office. Please make sure that the donors on your club's list are being contacted in some form. If you have not reached out to businesses- contact your leader for information on what you can do to help with this important task!

National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week is April 17-23, 2022. During this time I would like to thank each and every volunteer who makes the 4-H program and extra opportunities for youth possible in McPherson County! I would like to challenge each of you to pick at least one volunteer and call or write to thank them for the time and hard work they give to our 4-H program! THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!



Livestock ID's

Are due into the Office on April 29. 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.

Discovery Days

Up to 4 full scholarships will be given to attend Discovery Days this year on the K-State Campus (June 1-3). Members 13-18 are invited to register for the event and apply for a scholarship. As more information is received we will pass on in emails! This deadline has been extended to April 20.

Bring Your 4-H Projects to LIFE!

Fashion Studies

The next session will be held on Thursday, April 14 at 7 PM as we learn from the K-State College of Interior Design and Fashion Studies. This session sounds SO interesting with the STEM and technology they incorporate into clothing. Register online by April 12 to insure you receive all program information.

https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cJilbdhI0L2vBye

Remember, you do NOT have to currently be enrolled in any specific project to come explore and learn with us! We try to record all sessions- so register even if you have a conflict on April 14!

HELPERS NEEDED!

A 4-H Showcase is being planned along with Veggie Garden Pick-Up for K-5 grade on Friday, May 13 from 1:30-3:30. We are needing clubs, projects and families to help plan activities for community youth to enjoy during this time. We will be listed in the ASD program- so we are excited to have new youth come learn about 4-H and have some fun! Money is available for those hosting tables to cover supplies!

Rock Springs 4-H Camp

Opportunities are still available to register for 4-H Camp at Rock Springs. I have \$125 scholarships available to help with these costs! Visit www.rockspringsranch4hcamp.org for dates and registration. Check the March Clover Corner for additional scholarship information!

PROJECT NEWS

Sheep/Meat Goats/Swine -Weigh-In and Tagging will take place in the Fairgrounds Block Building from 3:30 to 7:00 pm on Wednesday, April 27. Please make arrangements to have all your market animals there that day to be tagged!

Horse- Horse IDs Must be signed by May 1! (Turn in April 29)ID any horses you might use in the project!

Shooting Sports (Archery) - starting April 7 at 6:00 pm at Smoky Valley Shooting Sports, 2341 14th Ave, Lindsborg.



Ag News

Shad Marston
County Extension Agent
Agriculture and Natural Resources



Bee Hotel

Cattle Chat: Maintaining weight in times of high nutritional demands

K-State beef cattle experts offer ways to keep lactating cows in good body condition

By Lisa Moser, K-State Research and Extension news service

As people move through life stages, often their nutritional needs change depending on shifts in metabolism and activity levels.

In a similar way, beef cattle that have just calved and are in lactation have a high nutritional demand on their bodies. On a recent Cattle Chat podcast, experts at Kansas State University's Beef Cattle Institute said those animals' overall body condition needs to be managed accordingly.

"After calving the goal is for the cows to maintain their body condition before breeding, and if they are in a poor body condition it is going to be hard to get them to gain weight during this time because of the lactation demands on them," said veterinarian Brad White.

Veterinarian Bob Larson and nutritionist Phillip Lancaster agree that the first step is to assess the quality of the hay while looking at the overall condition of the cowherd post-calving.

"The amount and type of supplementation will depend a lot on the quality of the hay because this is a time when the cows need a lot of energy and protein in their diet," Larson said.

Lancaster added that the lack of rainfall over the winter is going to negatively impact how fast the green grass grows in the grazing pastures.

"With a looming drought, pasture green-up may be delayed or low and so we need to think about having some additional feed resources on hand," Lancaster said. "The cattle may need to be supplemented longer into the breeding season, so they are able to maintain their body condition."

Lancaster said the amount of supplement needed will vary depending on the needs of the herd, and he encouraged producers to feed high fiber supplements such as distiller's grains, soybean hulls and wheat midds, as examples.

"When we think about a protein supplement, we are adding protein to compensate for the low protein in the hay, which only requires 1-2 pounds of supplement," Lancaster said. "But if we want to maintain the body condition score, we may also need to supplement energy too, and so that may mean 5-6 pounds of supplement per head per day."

Larson said that if the cows lose 50-100 pounds during this lactation period that could make them less likely to rebreed in a timely manner.

But White added that knowing what type of feed to supplement is key and encouraged producers to work with a nutritionist to come up with a plan.

White said: "If you supplement the herd with the wrong type or amount of feed, it may actually decrease the digestibility of hay and be counterproductive."



How Much Do You Spend on Fuel Each Week?

Shad Marston, McPherson County Ag Agent

When gas prices are this high and it doesn't look like are coming down anytime soon, how can each of us save when it comes to putting fuel in our vehicles, each week? Can we really make changes to our car, driving habits and/or daily routine that can benefit and save us money at the gas pumps? The answer is yes, we can.

I can easily recall the clip in "Days of Thunder", one of my all-time favorite movies, when Cole Trickle (Tom Cruise) was wearing out his tires and burning fuel when he needed to be saving both his tires and fuel. Cole's crew chief (Robert Duvall) was trying to get him to understand how to change his driving habits to save his tires and fuel at the same time while maintaining his position on the race track. I think we can all learn a thing or two from that clip in the movie. Now, I'm not saying we should drive like NASCAR drivers, but we can cut down on some of our bad driving habits and change them into fuel saving ways to increase fuel mileage of our personal vehicles.

Let's cover some facts from the United States Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration.

- The average driver in the U.S. drives around 13,500 miles per year. That's over 1,000 miles per month!
- Americans drive more than twice as many miles in urban areas than in rural areas.
- The overall number of miles driven by Americans has increased every year since 2011 and is more than double the total miles driven in 1980. This makes sense, as there are more licensed drivers and registered vehicles than ever before.
- In Kansas the average mileage driven per car is 14,781 miles per year.
- The average miles per gallon across all car types, for city and highway combined, is nearly 25 mpg

With a little simple math on the averages from Kansas drivers; 14,781 miles divided by 25 mpg equals 591 total gallons used in a year. 591 gallons of gasoline times the current fuel price average here in McPherson County of \$3.79 is \$2240. That's \$2240 per year spent on fuel alone for each car. We all know of a family that has 3 or more vehicles.

Here are some ways to aid in our MPG of the vehicles we drive.

1. Timely maintenance of your vehicle: Servicing your car on a regular basis can not only help the longevity of your vehicle, it can help in fuel mileage. Checking your oil on time will improve the overall efficiency and gas mileage of your engine by preventing breakdown and buildup of sludge over time. Always use proper oil weight and type recommended for your vehicle. Changing your air filter if dirty, helps your engine to breathe and will increase efficiency of your engine.
2. Proper tire pressure: Driving on under-inflated tires can reduce gas mileage by 0.3%
3. Using a fuel treatment: Adding a fuel additive to your gasoline, will help clean out your fuel injectors and keep your fuel system operating in a more efficient way. Over time, impurities in gasoline build up and take power from your vehicle and force your engine to work harder.
4. Is your car in need of a tune up? Now, is a good time to see why the Check engine light is on. Faulty O2 sensor can cost you 40% in mileage. Also, change the spark plugs to improve fuel efficiency.
5. Drive sensibly and use your cruise control when driving long distances and avoid excessive accelerations and braking. Just driving slower can reduce the risk of having an accident when driving, but it also improves your fuel economy by 33%. Lighten your load by removing unused racks and sand bags for traction now the spring is here winter is over.

Decreasing the miles driven in a particular year will definitely lower the money we spend on gasoline. Many car routes we make each and every day, like going to work or school, cannot be deleted, but we can reduce some of the unnecessary trips we take by consolidating errands and trips to be more efficient in our traveled miles.

With the high prices of everything now days, saving money in different ways makes perfect sense. How much do you spend on fuel each week? Cutting back on the trips we take and making all the changes to extend our car's fuel mileage can help decrease the amount of fuel we use in a year's time. Following these simple rules, can result in less of our hard earned money being spent on fuel thus, more money can be put into savings.

K-State Garden Hour Preps for Spring Series Submitted by Pat Melgares

As gardeners begin getting the itch to get outside, a popular gardening program has just the scratch they'll need. The K-State Garden Hour, a free online program that has served tens of thousands of viewers since the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, is gearing up for its spring series.

Matthew McKernan, a K-State Research and Extension horticulture agent in Sedgwick County, said upcoming sessions are aimed at helping viewers set a foundation for gardening success.

Those sessions include:

- April 6 – Pollinator Plants for Continuous Food Sources. Jason Graves of the Central Kansas District will talk about planting strategies and plants that supply food for pollinators.
- May 4 – New and Improved Annual Flower Varieties. McKernan will highlight new flower varieties that have performed well in Kansas.
- June 1 – Organic Pest Management for Vegetable Gardens. Johnson County horticulture agent Zac Hoppenstedt will discuss organic controls available to the home gardener.

Each online session begins at noon with a 45 minute presentation and 10-15 minutes for questions. There is no charge to participate, but interested persons must register online to receive access to the sessions.

“Plant selection is one of the most critical steps in all of gardening,” McKernan said. “Whether we are selecting plants for their summer beauty, for their ability to support pollinators, or for their insect and disease resistance, picking the right plant for the right place is the most important step.”

He said all three webinars in the spring series will provide recommendations for plants common to Kansas.

“If you start with a plant that can't handle all that Kansas has to throw at it -- whether that's heat, drought, insects, or disease -- you limit your gardening success from the very first day you plant a new garden,” McKernan said.

In the first three months of 2022, more than 2,587 individuals have registered for the webinar series, spanning 32 states (and the District of Columbia) and five countries. Combined, the live and recorded videos have been viewed 4,417 times, according to McKernan.

“It's been incredible to see the number of people from across Kansas, and beyond, that have become more successful gardeners by participating each month,” McKernan said. “We are able to inspire more and more gardeners each month, and I'm excited to encourage these gardeners to try new plant varieties that will help further their success.”

Looking for a new use for your small acreage or ways to better manage your current operation? Check out our lineup of topics and register today. All meetings start at Noon.

SMALL ACRES AGRICULTURE SERIES



Poultry: April 13 – Noon



Improving Pasture/Hay Field Care: April 20 – Noon



Ponds: April 28 – Noon



Predator and Animal Control: May 3 – Noon

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316-660-0144

McPherson Co. Extension
620-241-1523

Harvey Co. Extension
316-284-6930

First Hollow Stem Update

Cattle should be removed from wheat pastures when the crop reaches first hollow stem (FHS). Grazing past this stage can severely affect wheat yields (for a full explanation, please refer to the eUpdate article “Optimal time to remove cattle from wheat pastures: First hollow stem”).

In order to screen for FHS during this important time in the growing season, the K-State Extension Wheat and Forages crew measures FHS on a weekly basis in 19 different commonly grown wheat varieties in Kansas. The varieties are in a September-sown replicated trial at the South Central Experiment Field near Hutchinson. Ten stems are split open per variety per replication, for a total of 40 stems monitored per variety.

First Hollow Stem (cm)

Variety	3/9/2022	3/15/2022	3/21/2022	3/24/2022
AP Exp#1	0.2	0.3	1.0	1.6
AP Roadrunner	0.7	1.0	1.9	-
AP18AX	0.6	0.6	2.9	-
AM Cartwright	0.3	0.5	0.8	1.5
Crescent AX	0.4	0.8	2.1	-
KS Ahearn	0.3	0.3	0.6	1.2
KS Hatchett	0.1	0.5	1.0	1.3
KS13DH0041-25	0.2	0.5	1.2	1.5
LCS Atomic AX	0.5	0.6	1.7	-
LCS Chrome	0.2	0.5	1.1	1.4
LCS Helix AX	0.3	0.4	1.1	1.4
LCS Julep	0.2	0.3	0.8	1.0
LCS Photon AX	0.4	0.5	1.3	1.7
LCS Revere	0.2	0.2	0.5	1.0
LCS Runner	0.2	0.2	0.8	0.8
LCS Steel AX	0.3	0.3	1.0	1.4
LCS Valiant	0.2	0.3	1.1	1.9
Plains Gold Ray	0.3	0.4	0.9	1.4
Zenda	0.5	1.2	2.3	-
Average	0.3	0.5	1.3	1.4
Min.	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.8
Max	0.7	1.2	2.9	1.9

The wheat varieties AP Roadrunner, AP 18AX, Crescent AX, LCS Atomic AX, and Zenda had all reached the critical first hollow stem value of 1.5 cm as of March 21, 2022, and the varieties AP Exp#1, AM Cartwright, KS13DH0041-25, LCS Photon AX, and LCS Valiant had reached first hollow stem as of March 24. All remaining varieties had also started to elongate the stem at different rates and there were statistical differences among the varieties evaluated. We will report first hollow stem during the next few weeks again until all varieties are past this stage. Additionally, first hollow stem is generally achieved within a few days from when the stem starts to elongate, so we advise producers to closely monitor their wheat pastures at this time.

The intention of this report is to provide producers an update on the progress of first hollow stem development in different wheat varieties. Producers should use this information as a guide, but it is extremely important to monitor FHS from an ungrazed portion of each individual wheat pasture to take the decision of removing cattle from wheat pastures.

McPherson County Extension is continuously updating our programs that we offer for schools and community organizations. Some of these programs will be led by extension staff, and others are kits and resources available for checkout. All are free or at a very low cost. For the latest information on what's available, please go to <https://www.mcpherson.k-state.edu/4-h/youthenrichment/index.html> To schedule a program or check out a kit, please email Audrey Seeger at aseeger@ksu.edu or call the office at 316-241-1523!

My Plate Kits

The MyPlate kits are a fun way to help children ages 4-6 learn about the importance of eating a variety of foods and establish healthy eating habits. We have a classroom kit that is available for checkout by teachers and child care providers. We also have a family kit that is perfect for use in smaller groups with the help of a parent, grandparent, or other caregiver. Call or email today to check out a kit!



Seeds

We still have quite a few seed packets available in the lobby. Now is the time to grab a few and prepare to start your garden!

Walk Kansas

Walk Kansas has just started! You can still register online at www.walkkansas.org through April 4. We will be hosting a Poker Walk event in downtown McPherson on Friday, April 8. This come and go event will be held 11:30-1:30. To begin, simply stop by our table at the Plaza during the event. We will get you started walking downtown McPherson and collecting cards along the way. The best hand will win an awesome grand prize! You do not have to be registered for Walk Kansas to participate in this fun event! It is free and open to the public!



Financial Capability Month

April is Financial Capability Month, which also means it is a great time to do a financial checkup! We have copies available at the office, but you can also visit <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF2721.pdf> to download it from the online bookstore!

