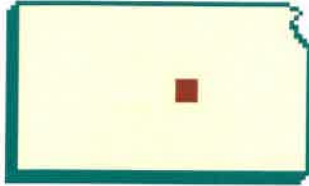


McPherson County



K-State Research & Extension
600 West Woodside, McPherson KS 67460
620-241-1523 FAX 620-241-3407
www.mcpherson.ksu.edu

FEBRUARY 2020



Clover Corner

Lindsey Mueting
County Extension Agent
4-H Youth Development



Happy February! More than 1/3 done with the 4-H year? Wow...hard to believe. Do you feel like you are well into your way of exploring and learning about your projects? Hopefully project meetings have begun within your club! If you are interested in hosting a county-wide project experience, let me know! Please don't forget to re-enroll at ks.4honline.com. Remember, projects can be dropped or added until May 1! There are a lot of important dates in this newsletter, so read carefully!
~Lindsey

February Dates

- 1 Development Fund Drive begins
- 6 4-H Council
- 16-17 Citizenship In Action
- 17 Office Closed
- 23 Communications Boot Camp

4-H Council

Council Representatives- Don't forget about the meeting on February 6 at 7 PM! Please make sure you have representation from your club! (2 youth, 2 adults) Find an alternate if you cannot make it! Remember we will be voting on 4-H Fair Themes! Make sure your club has submitted their top choice by Feb 3!

Publish Your News

If you have news, dates or activities to share with other 4-H'ers, get them in the 4-H Clover Corner! Articles or dates you would like in the March publication need to be to Lindsey by February 18. Email them to LMueting@ksu.edu

\$ 4-H Development Fund \$

The annual 4-H Development Fund Drive for McPherson County gets underway in February! Each 4-H club has a list of possible donors to contact. There were several contacts last year that were never even made! It is vital that all contacts are made to help us reach our goals!! 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
- 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

4-H Camp

It is currently snowing...but summer is coming! Please take note of a couple of changes as you plan for OzSome 4-H Camp 2020!

AGES- Classification for camp eligibility will be calculated by 4-H Age, (This is a change from previously being grades). Rookie camp will be available for those 4-H age 7 and 8. Regular camp for 4-H age youth 9-13. (Starting in 2021 regular camp will be open for 9-12 aged youth only).

BUS- ALSO- all McPherson County Campers WILL ride the bus to and from camp. There will be no fee for this transportation. We will also still be looking for a handful of adults to help ride with youth on the bus and transport luggage! Please be aware that rookie campers will need parent transportation one way (outlined below) as the bus only runs on June 16 and 19.

FULL TIME CAMP

9-13 year olds- Come join the fun at Rock Springs 4-H Center. Camp is June 16-19 for regular campers. Check-in will be approximately 4 PM at Rock Springs. Registration will begin in March so keep your eye open for website details. Cost of Camp will be \$223 for full time. Because of extra Tractor Supply Paper Clover and MKC Leadership funds, the camp scholarship for any 4-H member attending regular camp will go up to \$98 this year! You must write a paragraph about why you want to attend camp and type it in during camp registration! **This makes camp only \$125 for 4 days!**

COUNSELORS

ATTENTION youth 14-18- You may apply to be a counselor at OzSome 4-H Camp! Applications will be available soon and due by May 1. Camp counselor training will be June 15-16 at Rock Springs. The counselor fee will be paid this year by the McPherson County 4-H Development Fund.

ROOKIE CAMP

7 and 8 year olds - We have a special opportunity just for you... Rookie Camp! We will again be offering two sessions for this amazing camp this year!! When you register online you will be asked if there are any sessions that you cannot make work with your summer schedule. No session is guaranteed, but we will do our best to try to accommodate schedule conflicts. Session 1 will be June 16 (afternoon) to June 17 (evening) and Session 2 will be June 18 (morning) to June 19 (afternoon). Rookie campers will ride the bus to camp for session one or home from camp for session two. The other transportation will be up to parents or carpooling. Cost for Rookie camp will be \$108. A scholarship for current McPherson County 4-H Youth if a paragraph is written on why you want to attend camp is available at \$48, making the cost of Rookie camp just \$60.



Legion Family Night

Save the date for May 21! County 4-H Council voted to participate in American Legion Family Night for 2020. This is a great way to showcase 4-H to the public as well as earn funds for 4-H Council. Each 4-H family is expected to sell tickets to this event. Tickets should be available April 17. The night of the event we will provide desserts and some helpers during the meal.

4-H Club Day

4-H Club Day registration is due by February 21. Please visit the following link to register for individual events! <https://tinyurl.com/MultiCoClubDayInd> .
<https://tinyurl.com/MultiCoClubDayGroup> for any club or group events.

Guidelines for categories can be found at: <https://www.mcpherson.k-state.edu/4-h/events>
There will also be Pickle Power and Horticulture Judging at this event! Come participate and also support your fellow 4-H members! Each club will also be asked to provide Room Monitors for morning events.



MULTI COUNTY 4-H HARVEY | MCPHERSON | MARION CLUB DAYS

MARCH 7TH, 2020 | EVENT STARTS AT 8:45
CHISHOLM MIDDLE SCHOOL
900 E 1ST | NEWTON, KS 67114

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. PRESENTATIONS SUCH AS TALKS, DEMONSTRATIONS, SPEECHES, SKITS, MUSIC AND DANCE ARE JUDGED AND AWARDED RIBBONS. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO COME, WATCH AND LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR 4-H/YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

Registration Opens: January 2nd
Registration Closes: February 21st @ 11:59 PM

Individual Link: <https://tinyurl.com/MCClubDayInd>
Group Link: <https://tinyurl.com/MCClubDayGroup>

K-STATE
Research and Extension



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.

Beef & Sheep Kansas Jr Producer Days

Species producer days are held to provide educational material and hands-on experiences for youth, parents, leaders, and extension agents. Various speakers share information on topics such as selection, nutrition, showmanship, fitting, reproduction, feeding, and disease control. Talks, demonstrations, hands-on activities, and door prizes are present at all events.

Both dates will also offer an optional YQCA Training

Kansas Junior Beef Producer Day - Sat, Feb. 29, 2020
Weber Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS
Early Registration Due – February 7, 2020
Early Registration Fee - \$15/person

Junior Sheep Producer Day – Sat, March 14, 2020
Weber Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS
Early Registration Due – February 21, 2020
Early Registration Fee - \$15/person

More information and registration can be found online at:
(<http://www.asi.k-state.edu/research-and-extension/youth-programs/ks-jr-producer/index.html>)

Tagging and Weigh Days

Plans are being made for Spring tagging. Plan on April 2 for Beef tagging - please make an appointment with Lindsey for what time (8:30-6:30) you will be planning to weigh & tag on the fairgrounds. Watch for more details on Sheep\Goat and Swine tagging which will be the last part of April.

Livestock Members- YQCA

Please remember that all youth planning to show Beef, Sheep, Swine or Goats at the 4-H Fair must complete the yearly YQCA training. This is also required for State shows. Watch for upcoming in person trainings. There will also be opportunities at both Junior Producer Days in Manhattan and a course online.

Horticulture

Willie and the Beanstalk! Join this All University Open House Growing Contest! The challenge is to grow the largest soybean plant in a 47 day time span and document the effort! This contest is open to any 3 person teams of K-12 students in Kansas. McPherson Agriculture Agent, Shad Marston, is willing to help get you started in this event, contact him at smarston@ksu.edu. Growing would begin no earlier than March 2 in order to be ready for K-State Open House on April 18!

Cloverbuds/Exploring

A project meeting for any cloverbud or Exploring member will be held January 30 and February 24. Meetings at 6:30 at the Extension Office Meeting Room. Please RSVP to Tregehr@ksu.edu.

Clothing\Fiber Arts

The McPherson Quilt Guild has invited 4-H members to join them for their monthly meetings and events. These include educational talks and activities that might be of interests to several of our projects. The group meets at First Presbyterian Church, 1400 N Main Street, McPherson on the second Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m. Use the southeast walk-in door. Upcoming meetings include:

February 10 -presentation from owner of used fabric store

March 9 -BeeHive Quilt Shop trunk show and shopping

March 14 -project on Teeny Tiny Projects! RSVP and class fee required. Please contact the Extension Office or Sharon Unruh (sharonunruh59@gmail.com) for more information.

Junior Leaders Community Conversations

Kansas 4-H and the K-State Institute for Civic Discourse and Democracy invite youth citizens to use their leadership and communication skills to learn how to have tough conversations that matter. McPherson County will be hosting three events that will open to middle and high school youth (non 4-H members welcome). Please mark the following dates on your calendars!

February 23 (1-5 pm) - Communications Boot Camp

March 29 (1-5 pm) - Community Conversation Facilitator Training - this will be a great opportunity for those youth wanting to learn more about facilitating conversations. Those completing this course will help decide the topic for our community conversation and help lead their peers during the event as they facilitate the small group conversations.

April 25 (1-5 pm) - Community Conversation (open to all area youth - middle\high school) and adults.

More information will be available soon!

Entomology/Visual Arts

The Pesticide Safety and Integrated Pest Management Program is hosting an insect-themed art contest for Kansas 4-Hers' and art students. The artwork created by Kansas youth will be used to create an "Old Maid" style card game and distributed to Kansas schools. The program encourages youth to get your creative hats on and create an entry before the April 3, 2020 deadline. Entries must feature an insect as the central focus of the art. More information on the rules and how to submit an entry can be found at: <https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/pesticides-ipm/>



Living Well

Jana McKinney
County Extension Agent
Family & Consumer Science



Thank you!

Thank you McPherson County. I started my Extension career in Wallace Co in 1985, moved to McPherson in October 1986 as the 4-H Youth Agent and then to FCS in May 2000. It has truly been my pleasure to be able to be a part of your lives for so many years. I am excited for the new opportunity that I will be starting in February. Please know that I appreciate the chance to get to work with you, teach you, and share life with you. I complete my Extension career on January 31, 2020 with 34 years, 8 months of service. Best wishes to you all!

Bake for Family Fun Month

Once again, February is designated as Bake for Family Fun Month by the Home Baking Association. Build new traditions by sharing the goodness of baking with your family.

The Home Baking Association has developed lessons, recipes and videos to help teach skills of baking. Materials are divided up in to four weeks of classes. Recipes are for the beginner, intermediate and advanced baker.

Besides baking bread, making homemade pizza is a fun family activity. The bonus is the time and money savings of about half the time and cost when making it at home.

Another bonus is the control of ingredients to make a healthier pizza. According to the USDA, Americans spend \$37 billion a year on pizza. Learn more at the benefits of making pizza at home at <http://www.homebaking.org/>.

Know Your Numbers!

We all know about the importance of keeping an eye on our cholesterol, blood pressure and weight. There are some other indicators of wellness that we should know as well:

Fasting blood sugar: The number: 100. The ideal range is less than 100 milligrams per deciliter of blood. Between 100 and 125 indicates prediabetes. If you're above 100, your doctor will discuss your options, which may include lifestyle changes and medication.

Waist-to-hip ratio: Belly fat is more telling predictor of your health than the number you see on the bathroom scale. The number: 0.8. Measure your waist where a belt would go. Then measure your hips at their widest point. Now do the math: Divide waist number by hips number. The result should be 0.8 or lower. If it's not, start exercising. Simply walking briskly 30 minutes at least 6 days a week will help you lose the most fat.

Depression: The number: 5. If you experience five or more of the following symptoms for two weeks in a row or more, you may suffer from depression: Sadness, Irritability, Hopelessness, Changes in sleep patterns, Low energy or fatigue, Feelings of guilt or worthlessness, Significant weight change, Difficulty concentrating, Loss of interest in normally enjoyable activities. Take action: If you recognize yourself too often in this list, talk to your family doctor.

Thyroid: The number: 0.8-4.0 mIU/L (milli-international units per liter) Some labs may report this differently, so you have your doctor explain the results. There isn't much you can do on your own. If your numbers indicate a problem, your doctor will go over medication options with you.

Bone Density: The number: above -1. A healthy T-score is above -1. If your aren't where you should be, your doctor will let you know. Increasing calcium intake is essential if your T-score is low. Exercise can increase bone mass. Thinning bones may lead to fracture, so it's important to check bone density, especially if you are older than 50 or post-menopausal.

- Source: Better Homes and Garden

Stay Strong, Stay Healthy



Stay Healthy, Stay Strong

Stay Strong, Stay Healthy (SSSH) is an evidence-based, eight-week exercise program for older and sedentary, middle-aged adults. The hour long class meets twice each week, and includes strengthening exercises. Participants learn the exercises and begin to improve strength and balance. After eight weeks, participants are encouraged to continue this program at home or with a community group. Participants will help determine the class time. Three pieces of equipment are used: a chair, hand weights and adjustable ankle weights. Weights will be provided for class participants to use. If interested, please contact Tamme Lackey at 620-241-1523. This program is \$20.00 and location is determined on location interest!

The classes are held twice a week, with at least one day between sessions. The lifting time is guided by those interested in participating. If you are interested in getting a group together, please give Tamme a call at 620-241-1523. **Registration is required in advance.** Forms are available at the Extension Office. This is a fun way to exercise! It's never too late to increase your strength and flexibility. We will start slow and you can build at your own pace. Class lasts about 1 hour including warm-up and cool down.

Tamme Lackey is certified in Levels 1 and 2. She has been working with Jana McKinney to teach the Stay Strong Stay Healthy program. Since Jana is retiring January 31, Tamme will assume the program leadership role while the search for a new FCS Agent is conducted.

Falls – A Concern

The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control reports that one in three adults ages 65 and older fall each year. From 90 to 95 percent of older adults who break a hip do so in a fall. Twenty-five percent of older adults who break a hip typically die from complications such as pneumonia within six months.

The natural aging process – changes in vision, loss of muscle tone, coordination or flexibility, and bones that become more brittle with each year – can make older adults more vulnerable than the general population. Here are tips to reduce the risk of falling.



1. Ask your health care provider for a “fall assessment,” which typically tests balance and assesses walking style or “gait,” and if a fall prevention program or clinic is available in your community. If not, ask how you might help develop such a program or clinic. If your health care provider recommends using a cane or walker for added stability, use it.
2. Make a commitment to exercise, either individually or with a group, to maintain, strengthen and improve muscle tone, flexibility and balance.
3. Review medications at least annually, as side effects from prescribed or over-the-counter medications can impair senses and increase risks of accident and injury.
4. Make changes in the home. Eliminate clutter, remove throw or scatter rugs that often are at fault in a fall, and install grab bars by the toilet, shower and bath tub. Use non-skid mats in the shower and tub, use night lights, and install a bedside telephone if you don't already have one.

Leave some tasks, such as cleaning the gutters or climbing a ladder to change a light bulb, to younger people – or a professional.

Clutter is a family affair! Choose a convenient time for everyone to discuss plans for clutter control. It is unfair to expect one person to restore order. All family members share the responsibility for picking up after themselves.

Make Time. Set aside several Saturday mornings to work as a family on big cleanups. In each room, start at one spot and work clockwise around the room until you reach your starting point. Use the box approach to sort the clutter. Sort items into boxes labeled *Keep, Store, Give Away/Sell, Throw Away* and, if you are indecisive, you can use a fifth box labeled *Maybe*.

Maintaining a Clutter-Free Home. Everyone needs to do a little bit every day. It is everyone's "job" to keep items picked up and put away. Tasks need to be appropriate for family members' ages and abilities. Share your ideas and expectations of what is expected and acceptable. You may need to teach others simple and effective ways to do the tasks.

Everyone's Plan for Success. What are everyone's daily and weekly responsibilities? What are the acceptable standards? What are the consequences if the jobs are not completed?

A word of caution: Some members may object. Stay firm and do not do their share of the work or you will end up getting it back! It will take at least 2 to 4 weeks until the jobs become routine. You will need to be patient. The reward is worth the work. When youth and adults help with household work, they learn to carry out tasks, accept responsibility, and help others. They may develop a sense of "can do," which builds self confidence.

Now is a great time to get started...it's early in 2019. Make it a goal to work on reducing clutter in your home. But remember, you didn't get all the clutter overnight; so it's not going to go away quickly either. However, if you work at it together on a regular basis, you will soon be happy with the results.

Smart Uses for Your Tax Refund



A tax refund can have a real impact on your personal and financial well-being. Before you spend that hard earned money on a new sofa or vacation, look at these suggestions.

How Should I Spend My Money?

1. **Pay Off Bills** - First priority are regular monthly bills (utilities, phone, etc) and then those with the highest interest rate. If you owe \$2,000 on a credit card (18% interest) and pay \$50 a month, it will take 5 years to pay it off and you'll pay \$1,077 in interest. Will you even still have the items that you charged 5 years from now?

If you use your tax refund to pay off \$1,000 and continue to pay \$50 a month, the bill will be paid in 2 years and you'll save \$879 in interest.

2. **Save Needs in the Coming Year** - Try to save enough money to get you through a couple of months if you had unexpected car repairs or medical expenses, or lost your job (Emergency Funds). Avoid big bills like holiday spending by building up savings now (Occasional Expenses).

3. **Long-term Savings** - Your tax refund can help you plan for future goals like a home or a comfortable retirement. Adding \$500 a year into an IRA retirement account can yield \$68,100 after 30 years. If you add \$25 to the yearly \$500 contribution you could have \$113,800 for a retirement nest egg! You may save even more in taxes by contributing to a tax deferred IRA or a Roth IRA that is tax-free when you retire.

4. **Special Purchases** - Ask yourself, do I NEED or WANT that new refrigerator, TV or sofa? These may be essential or can be delayed until you save for that specific item.

Your Best Bet: Put some of your tax refund toward financial security by paying off debt, planning for the year ahead and setting aside for your goals.

Plan ahead – without a plan, you may use the money on the first thing that comes to mind and later realize something else was more important.

Identify all the possibilities – think big and involve your family in the process!

Devote a portion to build long-term financial security.

Don't throw away part of your refund on loan fees - "Quick Refund" companies are just giving you a high-cost loan! A little patience can save you big bucks.



Ag News

Shad Marston
County Extension Agent
Agriculture and Natural Resources



2020 Farm Forum

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee will host the 2020 Farm Forum on Monday, February 24 at the First United Methodist Church, 1200 E. Kansas Avenue beginning at 6:00 p.m. The key note speaker is Mark Potter and his wife Nattlie. The evening program will also include the recognition of the 2019 Farm Family of the Year and the 2019 Friend of Agriculture Award.

The Chamber Agriculture Committee is very involved with keeping the importance of agriculture in the forefront. Since 2000 over 24 scholarships Agriculture Future of America scholarships have been awarded to McPherson County students valued at over \$60,000. The committee hosts several events throughout the year – Rural Appreciation, Mac County 5K Run, Farm Forum and is a partner in the Ag in the Classroom. If you are interested in attending the Farm Forum presentation on February 24 the catered evening meal will be \$12.00 per person. Tickets are required to attend and can be purchased at the McPherson Chamber of Commerce, 306 N. Main. If you have any questions about the event or would like to be involved, please call the Chamber at 241-3303, or stop by their office.

McPherson County Extension Annual Cow-Calf School

Thursday, February 20, 2020
4-H Building
710 West Woodside, McPherson
Steak Dinner by Reservation
RSVP by Monday, February 10
620-241-1523 or tregehr@ksu.edu
Please call if you need to cancel

Program:

- 6:00 Steak Dinner \$15.00
(by reservation only)
 - 6:45 Caregiver Impact on Cattle Health, Performance & Safety
- Speaker: Dr. Tom Noffsinger, Animal Handling & Staff Development, Nebraska

Tractor Safety Course



Saturday, March 14, 2020
(tentative date)
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Prairieland Partners
2401 E. Northview Rd
McPherson KS 67460

RSVP by March , email Terra tregehr@ksu.edu
Cost: \$25.00; Free Lunch

Conservation Trees Available

Don't forget to order conservation trees from the Kansas Forest Service. The Kansas Forest Service offers low-cost tree and shrub seedlings for use in conservation plantings. Plants are one to two years old and sizes vary from 5 to 18 inches, depending on species. Orders are accepted from now through the first full week in May each year, but order early to insure receiving the items you want. Orders are shipped from the second week of March through May. Approved uses for these plants include windbreaks, wood lots, riparian plantings, wildlife habitat, and Christmas trees. They may not be used for landscape (ornamental) plantings or grown for resale. All items are sold in units. Each single species unit consists of 25 plants. For example, a unit of Eastern red cedar has 25 trees per unit. Though a single species unit is most commonly purchased, four special bundles are also available. If you want to order, come into the office and pick up a form or order online at www.kansasforests.org

Cold Stress: What is Cold to a Cow?

As we all know there is no typical weather pattern in Kansas. We experienced a wet spring & fall this year and thus far winter has been interesting with warm temperatures followed by rain then brutally cold and windy days. The downside is that we don't know what might happen in the New Year, as we approach what are typically the coldest months of the year. Most cattle producers know and appreciate that cold weather increases nutrient requirements. However, the obvious questions that come to mind are "What is cold to a cow?" and "What increases (energy, protein etc.) and by how much?. Cattle are most comfortable within the thermoneutral zone when temperatures are neither too warm nor too cold. During the winter months cattle experience cold stress anytime the effective ambient temperature, which takes into account wind chill, humidity, etc., drops below the lower critical temperature. The lower critical temperature is influenced by both environmental and animal factors including hair coat and tissue insulation (body condition). The table lists the estimated lower critical temperatures of cattle in good body condition with different hair coats. In wet conditions, cattle can begin experiencing cold stress at 59°F, which would be a relatively mild winter day. However, if cattle have time to develop a sufficient winter coat the estimated lower critical temperature under dry conditions is 18°F.

Cold stress increases maintenance energy requirements but does not impact protein, mineral, or vitamin requirements. The general rule of thumb (for a cow in good body condition, BCS = 5 or greater) is to increase the energy density of the ration by 1% for each degree (Fahrenheit) below the lower critical temperature. The classic response to cold stress in confinement situations is an increase in voluntary intake. However, it has been documented that grazing beef cows may spend less time grazing as temperatures decline below freezing, which reduces forage intake (Adams et al., 1986) and makes the challenge of meeting the cow's nutrient requirements even greater. In many cases, feeding a greater amount of low-quality hay may not provide sufficient energy. Therefore, providing additional energy by feeding a relatively higher-quality hay or grain may be required. More information on cold stress and nutrition may be found in "Beef Cow Nutrition Guide" available at the extension office.



Wildfire Awareness Week

TOPEKA, Kan. – Kansas Governor Laura Kelly has proclaimed Feb. 3-7, 2020, as Wildfire Awareness Week in partnership with the Kansas Interagency Wildfire Council and multiple state agencies.

"Each year, wildfires endanger our firefighters, neighbors, and landscapes," said Mick McGuire, the current chair of the Kansas Interagency Wildfire Council and lead meteorologist of the National Weather Service in Wichita. "Wildfire Awareness Week reminds us that we all have a part to play in preventing wildfires and protecting our communities."

Preliminary data from the Office of the State Fire Marshall indicates that reported vegetation fires were down to 2,502 fires burning 27,907 acres in 2019 as compared to 6,316 fires that burned 185,610 acres in 2018.

While reported wildfires were lower in 2019 due to above normal precipitation amounts, cooperating agencies within KIWC caution Kansans to not become complacent when it comes to doing their part to reduce the risk of and prepare for wildfires. Nearly 95% of all wildfires result from the activity of people, indicating there is still room for improvement.

McGuire said that every Kansan can implement the tips and best practices highlighted during Wildfire Awareness Week to prevent dangerous wildfires.

"I urge everyone to take simple, precautionary steps like pruning trees and shrubs around homes and removing old debris from yards. Kansas experiences it's heaviest wildfire activity during the early spring months, but fires occur during all seasons of the year, including winter," he said.

The Kansas Interagency Wildfire Council and partner agencies suggest the following to mitigate the risk of wildfire and reduce potential impacts if a wildfire does occur:

Create defensible space around homes by removing leaves and other plant debris and flammable material that could catch embers. Replace or repair loose or missing shingles. Provide adequate space between the home and trees or other landscaping.

1. Establish a community or neighborhood group to participate in or be a part of creating a wildfire mitigation and response plan.
2. Prevent wildfires from starting by avoiding activities that can spark fires near buildings and potential fuel sources.
3. Write and follow your burn plan for prescribed fire including checking the weather forecast, and continue to monitor the burn area to make sure it hasn't reignited.
4. Consider volunteering with your local fire department. Quick responses by local fire departments prevent what could become a devastating wildfire.

Be sure to like and follow @WildfireKS on Twitter and @KSKIWC on Facebook to see the latest information on wildfires in Kansas year-round.

The Weed of the Month

Ecology of kochia

Kochia, also known as tumbleweed, is native to Europe and Asia and was introduced from Europe as an ornamental in the mid- to late- 1800s. It is well adapted to the Great Plains. Kochia is related to common lambsquarters and Russian thistle and is similar to them in some ways.

Kochia has alternate, lance-shaped leaves with 3-5 prominent veins and hairs on the margins and lower surface (Figure 1). Small green flowers are formed at the base of leaves in late summer and early fall. Kochia is a round or pyramid-shaped plant with many branches that can grow up to 6 feet tall (Figure 2).

Management

If uncontrolled, kochia can reduce soybean yield by 30%, corn and sorghum yield by about 40%, and wheat yield by 58%. Kochia populations in Kansas have confirmed resistance to: chlorsulfuron (Group 2), dicamba and fluroxypyr (Group 4), atrazine (Group 5), and glyphosate (Group 9).

Resistance to key post-emergence herbicides coupled with early emergence makes herbicide timing critical for kochia management. Pre-emergence herbicides should be applied in fall or very early spring. Products below are listed as examples. Always read and follow label directions.



Figure 1: Example of kochia seedlings.



Picture 2: kochia plant that is approximately 6 feet tall.



Figure 3: Pattern of seed dispersal by wind-blown kochia.

Herbicide	Rate\acre	Group(s)	Crop	Timing
Fierce EZ	6 fl oz	14, 15	C, SB, F	PRE
Lumax EZ	2.7 qt	5, 15, 27	C, GS	PRE
Sencor	0.5 lbs	5	SB, W ¹ , F	BD, PRE
Spartan	6 oz	14	SB	BD, PRE
StaranelNXT	27.4 fl oz	4, 6	C, GS, W	POST
Glyphosate (Several)	2 pts	9	C ² , SB ²	POST
Gramoxone SL	3 pts	22	F	BD
Laudis	3 fl oz	27	C	POST

C=corn, GS-grain sorghum, SB=soybean, W-wheat, F-fallow, BD=burndown
¹ Tolerant varieties only; ² Resistant varieties only



K-State Research & Extension
McPherson County
600 West Woodside
McPherson KS 67460

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Jana McKinney
Retirement Reception

Friday, January 31, 2020
4:00-6:00 PM

McPherson County Extension Office
600 W. Woodside, McPherson

Please plan to join us in honoring Jana McKinney
for her service to KSRE for more than 34 years!



AGENT CONTACT INFORMATION

Jana McKinney
County Extension Agent
Family & Consumer Science
jmckinne@ksu.edu
Radio: Wednesday, 7:25 a.m.

Lindsey M. Mueting
County Extension Agent
4-H Youth Development
lmueting@ksu.edu

Shad Marston
County Extension Agent
Agriculture and Natural Resources
smarston@ksu.edu
Radio: Friday, 7:25 a.m.



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