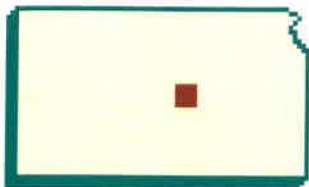


McPherson County



K-State Research & Extension
600 West Woodside, McPherson KS 67460
620-241-1523 FAX 620-241-3407
www.mcpherson.ksu.edu
FEBRUARY 2022

We are Hiring!

Please be on the lookout as an agent position in Family and Community Wellness at the McPherson County Extension Office will be opening mid-February! This is a full time position that will Provide primary leadership for the development and implementation of research-based educational programming to build healthy, sustainable communities, families, and individuals. Programming may include but is not limited to: strengthening families and individuals, building community capacity, family and community health and wellness (including stress and mental health), financial management (which may include financial planning, budgeting and record keeping, consumer credit, and taxpayer education) and local volunteer development. Watch our website, Facebook page and <https://ksre.ksu.edu/jobs> for more information in the coming weeks!

Welcome New Staff! Part-Time Community Connections Program Assistant

Hi! My name is Audrey Seeger. I am very excited to be the new Program Assistant at the McPherson County Extension Office. I will be working to help our agents with programming in the communities of McPherson County. We have a lot of exciting things in the works for 2022, so keep watching the newsletters and checking the website! I am looking forward to meeting you! If you have program ideas or requests, please drop me an email at aseeger@ksu.edu.

Extension Office Services

The Extension Office offers so many things to our community members! Don't forget to call or stop by if you might need any of the following:

Soil Tests for Lawn, Garden and Field
Metal Cake Pan Rental
Radon Test Kits
Water Test Kits
Researched Based Publications
4-H Youth Development Project Curriculum

Living Well Wednesdays: Virtual Learning Opportunities

February 9, 2022: "The Five Languages of Appreciation"

Languages of Appreciation explores important highlights from "The Five Languages of Appreciation in the Workplace," by Paul White and Gary Chapman. The book is excellent in helping readers to understand the importance of creating a culture that values and respects the ways in which colleagues and staff, at all levels, individually want to be appreciated. Participants will learn more about their own language of appreciation, explore important prerequisites to sharing effective appreciation and receive practical tips on how to express genuine appreciation throughout the workplace.

Register for this session (or any Wellness Wednesdays) at:
https://ksu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hwWOipnS9OLSisDtr24dA



**LIVING WELL
WEDNESDAY**

K-State Research and Extension Statewide Webinar Series



Clover Corner

Lindsey Mueting
County Extension Agent



Happy February!

Happy February! It will be spring and summer before we know it. Have you set all of your goals for each of your projects? We have some exciting options being added to our project record keeping - so set the goals and be ready to include them in your record book forms this month! Also, please don't forget to re-enroll at v2.4honline.com Remember, projects can be dropped or added until May 1, log into your account or call the office with these changes! Keep learning and growing!

~Lindsey

February Dates

Feb 15 Club Day Entries Due
Feb 20-21 Citizenship In Action
Feb 21 Office Closed
Feb 26 Multi-County 4-H Club Day (Newton)

Kansas 4-H Scholarships

The Kansas 4-H Foundation partners with Kansas 4-H to offer over 50 different scholarships to help fund higher education for 4-H youth who are high school seniors or older. The applications must be submitted by March 1, 2022 at the following link:

https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_72tDneEuowHOnLU

4-H Council

Council Representatives - Don't forget about the meeting on February 3 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 1! If you are a council officer please make sure you are prepared for the meeting with your officer tasks!

Z Books

Be on the lookout - new things are coming! Lindsey just completed a class on a new offering of an online record book form! This will be an option for McPherson County 4-H'ers this year and will be out very soon! The online form is not required, you will be able to use this platform or the PDF form like 2021. We are excited about the opportunities this unfolds for our members and record keeping!

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, pictures or dates you would like in the March publication need to be to Lindsey by February 16. Email them to Lmueting@ksu.edu

3D Printing Day Camp

Save the Date! McPherson and CKD will be hosting a virtual 3D Printing Day Camp! Registration (\$10 fee) will be available soon - but if you are 10-13 years old, save the dates and time:



March 15 and 17 - 2:00-4:00 p.m.

March 16 and 18 - 10:00 a.m. - Noon

March 18 - 2:00-3:30 p.m. (Optional wrap Up/Help for both sessions combined!)

Rock Springs 4-H Camp

If you are interested in camping and leadership opportunities at Rock Springs Ranch this summer - make sure to fine the dates and prices at: <https://www.rockspringsranch4hcamp.org/> Registration is open!

4-H Club Day

Don't forget to be preparing for our 2022 Club Day! Check out <https://www.mcpherson.k-state.edu/4-h/events/index.html> for Club Day Guidelines (with new helpful links) and the registration links! Due February 15!



MULTI-COUNTY 4-H CLUB DAY

MCPHERSON | HARVEY

FEBRUARY 26TH | EVENT STARTS AT 8:45
CHISHOLM MIDDLE SCHOOL
900 E 1ST, NEWTON KS 67114

REGISTRATION OPEN NOW
REGISTRATION CLOSES:
FEBRUARY 15TH @ 5PM

4-H CLUB DAY IS AN EVENT HIGH 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

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



Beef and Sheep Kansas Jr Producer Days

The KSU junior producer days are back as a fantastic learning experience in Manhattan! These events are one-day educational events for families to learn more about the selection and management of a specific specie. Youth, adults, project leaders, and volunteers are invited to attend! For more information and registration, visit: <https://www.asi.k-state.edu/research-and-extension/youth-programs/ks-jr-producer/index.html>

Kansas Junior Beef Producer Day – March 5
Registration Due – February 11, 2022

Junior Sheep Producer Day – March 19
Registration Due – February 25, 2022

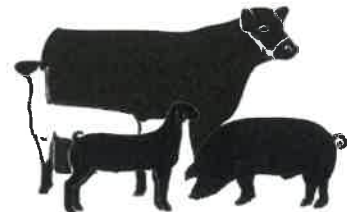


Tagging and Weigh Days

Plans are being made for Spring tagging. Plan on March 31 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 this spring. There is also the course online as a





Ag News

Shad Marston
County Extension Agent
Agriculture and Natural Resources



The Importance of Colostrum

Source Mark Z. Johnson, Oklahoma State University Extension Beef Cattle Breeding Specialist

Being ready and prepared before the start of calving season can make life much easier for cow-calf producers and potentially save a calf. By the time calving season starts, you need everything on hand that might be necessary and all equipment and facilities in working order. Operators need several doses of colostrum or colostrum replacer on inventory before the start of spring-calving season.

Adequate colostrum intake is extremely crucial for newborn calves in order to gain passive immunity. Calves born after a prolonged delivery through the pelvic canal can suffer from severe respiratory acidosis. Such calves are less efficient at absorbing colostral immunoglobulins or antibodies even if artificially fed colostrum. The only disease protection baby calves will receive is from the passive transfer of antibodies from the colostrum they ingest. Colostrum also contains ingredients that restricts bacterial growth. These factors, together with immunoglobulins, help limit growth of bacteria in the gut.

Colostrum or colostrum replacer will need to be administered by bottle suckling or tube feeding within a few hours of birth for maximal absorption of immunoglobulins. The general rule of thumb is the sooner colostrum is ingested the better and calves will typically stand, walk and nurse within one hour after birth. Bottomline: if there is any question of if a calf has received adequate colostrum, then colostrum should be administered immediately to the newborn. Calves that miss getting timely colostrum ingestion are much more likely to suffer from calf scours, which can have lifelong effects on general hardiness and disease resistance.

Previously obtained colostrum must be kept frozen to protect the integrity of the large protein molecules that make up the various immunoglobulins. Fresh colostrum can be stored in one-quart doses by putting that much in a gallon-size Ziploc bag. Lay the bags flat to freeze in the freezer. When the time comes to thaw the colostrum and feed it to the newborn calf, the "best practice" is to thaw in a warm water bath at 122 degrees Fahrenheit for one hour. Avoid thawing at room temperature of in a microwave oven.

The amount of immunoglobulin ingested is a major factor in final blood immunoglobulin concentration and disease protection. A practical rule-of-thumb is to feed 5% to 6% of the calf's body weight within the first six hours and repeat the feeding when the calf is about 12 hours old. For an 80-pound calf, this will equate to about 2 quarts of colostrum per feeding.

Commercial colostrum replacers contain more than 100 grams of immunoglobulin per dose. Always read the label before purchasing. It is important not to confuse supplements and replacers. Supplements are used to boost antibody protection a calf gets from nursing and contain 40 to 60 grams of immunoglobulins, which is not enough to provide protection in a calf that has not nursed.

Important steps to remember:

- Calves should have colostrum within first 2 hours of life, if calf can't get colostrum from dam, take steps to give colostrum within 4-6 hrs of birth.
- Colostrum intake should be 10% of calf's body weight, 0.5 – 1 gallon. First choice is for calf to nurse a bottle so that colostrum goes directly to the abomasum. Don't over feed to encourage calf to nurse on its own, 1.5 quart dose good starting point.
- Handle healthy calves before sick calves and avoid exposing newborns to contaminants on clothing or materials used on sick calves.
- If a cow is brought in for any amount of calving assistance, make sure she leaves with a clean udder.

Tractor Safety Trainings

Tuesday, March 15
9:00 a.m.
Prairieland Partners
2401 E Northview Ave
McPherson KS

Saturday, March 5
9:00 a.m.
Great Plains Conference Center
1525 E North Str
Salina KS

The National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program is designed for 14 and 15 year olds seeking employment in production agriculture.

Manual Cost: \$15.00 – pick up at local Extension Office

For more information or to RSVP, contact:

McPherson County Extension Office
620-241-1523

CKD - either Salina Office: 785-309-5850 or
Minneapolis Office: 785-392-2147



Wheat Rx seminars are scheduled for February 8 in Wichita and on February 9 in Hays. [Wheat Rx](#) is partnership between Kansas Wheat and K-State Research and Extension to disseminate the latest research recommendations for high-yielding and high-quality wheat to Kansas wheat farmers.

These two Wheat Rx schools will have speakers that will discuss the most up-to-date wheat research information on how to manage your wheat crop not only for yield but also for quality and sustainability.

Registration for the event is \$110 for non-members of the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers. However, members (including new members) will receive one free registration. Lunch and meeting materials are included with the registration fee.

Register online at <https://kswheat.com/wheat-rx-registration-page>

February 8, 2020 – Wichita, KS

Location: DoubleTree by Hilton
2098 Airport Road
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

February 9, 2020 – Hays, KS

Location: Memorial Union Ballroom
Ft. Hays State University
700 College Drive
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Cattlemen's Day 2022

Make plans to attend Cattlemen's Day 2022 – The 109th annual Cattlemen's Day will be hosted Friday, March 4, 2022. The trade show and educational exhibits will open at 8 a.m. in Weber Arena. Registration for KSU Cattlemen's Day will be \$20 per person in advance or \$30 per person at the door. Morning refreshments and lunch are included with registration.

A complete schedule will be coming soon to www.asi.ksu.edu/cattlemensday or call 785-532-1267. If you are interested in exhibiting at Cattlemen's Day or have any questions, please contact Dale Blasi (dblasi@ksu.edu; 785-532-5427).



Great Plains Initiative Indicates More Than Half of Kansas Windbreaks Are Deteriorating

A state forest official said an initiative to support windbreaks and other green infrastructure on Kansas farms is much-needed in light of recent data indicating that more than half of windbreaks in the state are in fair to poor condition.

Robert Atchison, recently retired coordinator of the [Kansas Forest Service's](#) rural forestry program, said the Great Plains Initiative 2 is a continuation of an inventory of windbreaks in Kansas, Nebraska and the Dakotas that first began in 2008 and is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service.

The most recent inventory of windbreaks in the Great Plains – completed in 2019 – indicates windbreaks throughout the region are deteriorating. [The report is available online](#) from the Kansas Forest Service.

In the 1930s, at the height of the Dust Bowl, the federal government invested \$13.8 million to establish more than 200 million trees and shrubs in windbreaks throughout the Great Plains (Figure 1). Today, this green infrastructure exceeds 80 years of age and is in a state of age- and climate-related decline.



Figure 1. The most recent data provided through the Great Plains Initiative 2 notes that 55% of Kansas windbreaks are in fair to poor condition. Photo credit: K-State Research and Extension.

There are more than 118,000 windbreaks in Kansas, comprising 261,000 acres and stretching 31,348 miles – enough to cross the state east to west more than 76 times. However, an average windbreak in Kansas only takes up a little more than two acres and is generally around 1,500 feet in length.

The great benefit of windbreaks is the extended protection they provide beyond their footprint, which is a distance and area at least 10 times their height on the leeward side and two times the height on the windward side. In Kansas, that adds up to almost a million acres for which windbreaks provide protection to livestock, cropland and farmsteads.

The 2019 data from the Great Plains Initiative reported that 45% of Kansas' windbreaks are in good condition, 37% in fair condition and 18% in poor condition. The report also outlined the types of windbreaks located in Kansas:

- 61% are farmstead windbreaks planted around homes and outbuildings.
- 26% are field windbreaks to reduce soil erosion, which aids crop yields.
- 11% are windbreaks to provide protection for livestock.

According to Atchison, since 55% of windbreaks in Kansas are in fair to poor condition, it suggests that there is a real need to encourage our farmers and ranchers to renovate and manage windbreaks before they lose their ability to provide protection.

Fortunately, there are USDA conservation programs like the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) (EQIP) that can help with the cost of renovating and establishing windbreaks.

The importance of windbreaks is illustrated by the fact that Kansas has 2.5 million acres of cropland where the soils are particularly susceptible to erosion, many of these in southwest and south-central Kansas. An inventory kept by the [Natural Resources and Conservation Service](#) indicates that Kansas croplands experience 70.6 million tons of wind erosion annually – or about 2.68 tons per acre each year.

Farmers and ranchers interested in renovating windbreaks should first contact a district forester, who can provide on-site advice for renovating the windbreaks, and connect producers with EQIP assistance to help get the work done.

There are seven forest districts in Kansas. The contact information for each is available on the [website for the Kansas Forest Service](#), or interested persons can call the state office in Manhattan at 785-532-3300.

Improving Our Brome Fields

This past year was challenging for brome producers throughout eastern Kansas, with many reports of a complete loss or partial loss of their brome stands (Figure 1). Brome field damage varied greatly, with some fields that appear dead while others have no damage at all. The majority of the damaged areas were late-harvested fields that were cut in mid-to-late July and after. Fall armyworm moths sought those recently harvested fields as sites to lay their eggs.



Figure 1. Dead brome field in eastern Kansas. Photo credit: Rod Schaub, K-State Research and Extension.

The brome plants tried to regrow (just a few inches tall) when the worms began feeding and within a couple of days, those fields turned brown. Hot, dry weather during this time led many producers to believe the burning fields were going dormant. However, questions arose after a few rain events in early September, and the brome wasn't greening up.

For now, producers need to identify the extent of damage that occurred in those fields. The first questions to be answered are: Are the brome plants alive or dead? Is there potential for regrowth?

If there are live rhizomes, it is likely that new tillers will be able to come up in the spring as environmental conditions improve. If there is no evidence that the plants are alive and the chances of regrowth are slim, producers need to plan for spring. In a "normal" year, with regular supply and input prices (seed, fertilizer, herbicide, etc.), the plan would be to calculate the damaged area and plan to have a well-prepared seedbed, and seed with 10 to 15 pounds of pure live seed (PSL)/acre. If a poor seedbed exists, seeding rates as high as 20 pounds PLS per acre may be required to obtain satisfactory stands. Higher seeding rates should be used when brome is broadcast on the surface and covered. In addition, there is a need to take soil samples and prepare a fertility program applying lime, nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium as needed. More information on Smooth Brome production and utilization can be found at: <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/c402.pdf>

As noted above, 2022 is a year with agriculture supply chain issues. Brome seed is very limited and the cost reflects that limited supply. Thus, there may be a need to identify other forage options.

1. If farmers need to produce forage during the spring and summer and are concerned with the cost of brome replanting (seed and fertilizer), they can consider exploring summer annual forages such as pearl millet, sorghum-sudangrass, forage sorghum, crabgrass, etc. These crops yield 4000 to 8000 lbs. of forage/acre. This is also an opportunity to consider seeding spring oats, spring triticale, and cereal rye with production from 1500 to 4000 lbs. of forage/acre. More details are available at: <https://www.agronomy.k-state.edu/documents/extension/mf2871.pdf>
2. If brome production this spring/summer is not crucial, or the producer isn't sure whether the brome is alive or dead, the grower can wait to see if the brome will come back during the spring and later decide what to do. With this option, farmers will have more time to determine stand health, identify prices trends, and make forage-based decisions. However, this option can also affect business profitability due to the uncertainty of forage yield during the next growing season.
3. If a grower really needs to produce brome hay to be sold and the field is damaged or dead, he should identify the number of acres to be replanted and purchase seed, fertilizer (take soil samples for lab analysis before defining the fertility program), herbicide, and insecticide as needed. Keep in mind that brome can be established in the spring, but weed pressure will be high. After planting in the spring, producers should scout for armyworms and other insects. Spring-planted brome is generally not harvested until the following spring. Fall-planted brome can be harvested in the spring of the next growing season.

This damaged or dead brome situation will be very unique in each hayfield. Thus, what your neighbor is doing or decided to do does not necessarily apply to you and your hayfield. Analyze your field, check the plants, and decide what would be the best for your operation. Each field may require a unique solution.

Bruno Pedreira, Agronomist, Southeast Research and Extension Center



Photo: Calving School 2022



K-State Research & Extension
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

AGENT CONTACT INFORMATION

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County Extension Agent
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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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