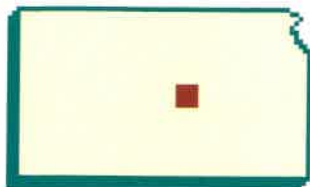


McPherson County



K-State Research & Extension
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MARCH 2020



Ag News

Shad Marston
County Extension Agent
Agriculture and Natural Resources



Tractor Safety Course

Saturday, March 14, 2020
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Prairieland Partners
2401 E. Northview Rd
McPherson KS 67460

RSVP by March 10, email Terra tregehr@ksu.edu
Cost: \$25.00

A multi County Tractor Safety course has been scheduled for March 14th starting at 8:30 at Prairieland Partners John Deere here in McPherson. Do you know of a 14 or 15 year old student that needs a tractor operator's permit, required by the Child Labor Regulations in regard to agricultural hazardous occupations before they can be employed to operate a tractor This class will enable youth to get their permit to work on a farm, driving a tractor this spring and/or summer.

Lunch will be provided that day by Praireland Partners LLC. Students will need to register at the McPherson County Extension Office to get the tractor safety book ordered and you can do that by coming in or calling 241-1523 by March 10.

Master Gardeners & Friends Educational Meeting



March 26 – 7:00 p.m.
Extension Office Meeting Room
600 West Woodside, McPherson KS

Topic: Butterfly Gardens

Speaker: Katie Schmidt, Dyck Arboretum

Mark your calendar for the April meeting.....

April 23 – 7:00 p.m.
Extension Office Meeting Room
600 West Woodside, McPherson KS

Topic: Information on fruit trees and shrubs

Speaker: Jason Graves, CKD #3 Horticulture Specialist

June Garden Tour

Saturday, June 20 - 9:00 a.m.

Be watching for more details in the upcoming months!

Chemical Weed Control Book

The new K-State 2020 Chemical Weed Control Guide is now available.

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

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

Now's The Time to Prep for Healthy Summer Lawns

It's probably a bit early to hope that the cold days of winter are in the rear view mirror, but homeowners with dreams of a lush summer lawn should already be concocting their spring work schedule.

"Now's a good time to make a lawn care plan," said Ward Upham, a K-State Research and Extension specialist in horticulture. "I suggest marking dates on a calendar so that important tasks are not forgotten."

A majority of Kansas homeowners grow such cool-season grasses as bluegrass and tall fescue. In the southern and western parts of the state, Bermuda, zoysia and Buffalo grass are popular warm-season grasses.

"Fertilizing at the correct time can help prepare our cool-season grasses for the stresses of summer," Upham said. "If you fertilize too little, the turfgrass plants enter the summer in a weakened condition. If you fertilize too much, the plant responds by growing faster, which leads to mowing more often or removing too much of the leaf blade at one time.

Follow guidelines so that you fertilize at the correct time and with the correct rate, which leads to healthy plants that are better able to fight off disease and weed invasion.

For cool-season grasses:

- March – spot treat broadleaf weeds, if necessary. Weeds should be treated on a day that is 50 degrees F or warmer. Do not water the lawn for at least 24 hours.
- April – Apply crabgrass preventer when redbud trees are in full bloom. The preventer needs to be watered in before it will start to work. One-quarter inch of water is enough.
- May – Fertilize the lawn with a slow-release fertilizer if you water your lawn, or if you normally receive enough rainfall that the lawn doesn't go drought-dormant during the summer. Spot treat broadleaf weeds with a spray or use a fertilizer that includes weed killer. Rain or irrigation within 24 hours will decrease the effectiveness of the weed killer, but fertilizer needs to be watered in. If using a product with both fertilizer and weed killer, wait 24 hours before watering.

For warm-season grasses:

- March – spot treat broadleaf weeds, if necessary. Weeds should be treated on a day that is 50 degrees F or warmer. Do not water the lawn for at least 24 hours.
- April – Apply crabgrass preventer when redbud trees are in full bloom. The preventer needs to be watered in before it will start to work. One-quarter inch of water is enough.
- May – August 15 – Fertilize with one pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per application. Follow the recommendations on the bag. "More applications will give a deeper green color, but will increase mowing and lead to thatch buildup with zoysia," Upham said. "Bermudagrass can also have problems with thatch buildup but thatch is less likely with Bermuda than zoysia."

Upham suggested that homeowners should plan on two to four applications of fertilizer for Bermudagrass, and one to two for zoysia and Buffalograss. He offered the following guidelines to determine when to apply fertilizer:

- One Application: Apply in June.
- Two Applications: Apply May and July.
- Three Applications: Apply May, June, and early August.
- Four Applications: Apply May, June, July, and early August.

Forage Fact

Nitrate Toxicity

After taking several calls asking what the safe levels of forage nitrate (dry matter basis) should be, to be fed to ensure the safety of livestock, I thought I would outline some important facts.

1. **Testing** of your forages for Nitrate toxicity is the first step. The potential for high nitrate concentrations in crops such as corn, sorghum, canola, cereal grains, and some grasses occurs when and/or after exposure to drought, hail, frost, cloudy weather, or soil fertility imbalance. Nitrates accumulate in the lower portion of these plants when stresses reduce crop yields to less than those expected, based on the supplied nitrogen fertility level.
2. A **test** is only as good as the samples you take. Make sure your test sample is an adequate representation of the total bales in question.
3. **Understanding** and using the correct chart that illustrates the different levels of forage nitrate and the potential its effect on animals. There is a difference between ppm Nitrate (NO₃) vs. Potassium Nitrate or Nitrate-Nitrogen.
4. **Dilution is the solution.** Producers can dilute higher levels forages with other feed stuffs to lower the level of toxicity.

Symptoms of nitrate toxicity may appear within a few hours after eating or not for several days. Signs of toxicity include reduced appetite, weight loss, diarrhea, and runny eyes. However, these are nonspecific symptoms of numerous disorders and are not a reliable diagnosis of nitrate poisoning. Lower nitrate levels can cause abortion without any other noticeable symptoms.

Plant factors such as species along with stage of growth and plant parts can accumulate potentially toxic levels of nitrate. Environmental factors such as drought, sunlight, frost, hail, disease and temperature can also contribute in increasing the nitrates of the forage. Management factors like fertilizing with large amounts of manure or other nitrogen fertilizers, particularly late in the season, increases nitrate concentrations in plants. Split nitrogen applications provide better nutrient distribution and reduce the potential for toxicity. Knowing the difference in harvesting techniques of making silage or bailing of the forage is important. Silage made from stressed forages should be analyzed after ensiling because the fermentation process usually converts about 50 percent of the nitrates to a nontoxic form. If forages are harvested as hay, nitrate concentrations remain virtually unchanged over time.

Table 1: Level of forage nitrate (dry matter basis) and potential effect on animals.

ppm Nitrate (NO ₃)	Effect on Animals
0-3,000	Virtually safe.
3,000-6,000	Moderately safe in most situations; limit use for stressed animals to 50% of the total ration.
6,000-9,000	Potentially toxic to cattle depending on the situation; should not be the only source of feed.
9,000 and above	Dangerous to cattle and often will cause death.

Summary Guidelines to Reduce Nitrate Toxicity

- * Pay close attention to potentially troublesome plants, such as sorghum, sudangrass, other summer annuals, and brassica species, which often have high nitrate levels.
- * Avoid excessive application of manure or nitrogen fertilizer.
- * When harvesting high-nitrate forages, raise the cutter bar 6 to 12 inches to exclude basal stalks. This also will minimize harvesting many weed species that have accumulated nitrate from shading.
- * Delay harvesting any stressed forages after conditions improve. Two weeks of favorable weather generally are required for plants to reduce accumulated nitrate.
- * Never feed green chop that has heated after cutting or been held overnight.
- * Harvest plants containing high levels of nitrate as silage rather than as hay.
- * Have representative samples of suspect forage analyzed before feeding.

Evaluating a New Soybean Seed Treatment to Control Sudden Death Syndrome in Kansas

Sudden Death Syndrome (SDS) is a disease that affects soybeans and is caused by the soilborne fungus *Fusarium virguliforme*. This fungus prefers wet conditions and thus is usually most severe in irrigated fields. SDS tends to be most severe on well-managed soybeans with a high yield potential. It also tends to be more prevalent on fields that are infested with soybean cyst nematode (SCN) or planted early when soils are wet and cool. Historical yield losses from this disease are generally in the range of 1 to 25 percent. While there are differences in susceptibility between varieties, there are no varieties that are completely resistant to SDS. Fortunately for the past several years, ILeVO (Bayer CropScience) seed treatment has shown to be effective at reducing the severity and yield loss to SDS, especially when used in combination with more tolerant varieties. A new seed treatment for SDS, Saltro (Syngenta Crop Protection), will be available to farmers for the first time in 2020.

Take home message

The addition of Saltro as another tool to combat SDS is great news for growers who need to manage SDS on a regular basis. It is not known from this study if Saltro will reduce Soybean Cyst Nematode as successfully as ILeVO has done in previous research. Regardless, this data indicates that both products can significantly reduce the severity of SDS and increase soybean yields. Incorporating either of these two seed treatments, in combination with a partially resistant variety, has the potential to greatly reduce the yield loss due to SDS, and increase the profitability of soybeans production.



Clover Corner

Lindsey Muetting
County Extension Agent
4-H Youth Development



Happy March! Hard to believe that summer event planning is so far underway! OzSome 4-H Camp registration opens March 1! OzSome 4-H Camp is June 16-19! Remember, you do NOT have to be a 4-H member to attend camp, invite your friends! Note the changes in ages and transportation in the newsletter!

Summer will be a fast paced and fun time for McPherson County 4-H. I hope you have your 4-H projects well underway. If not, no time like the present to start! Many county-wide projects are beginning so check out the newsletter for more info- you may even find a new project you would like to try. Remember you can drop and add projects until May 1. Keep going on the 4-H Development Fund - many scholarships and extra activities we have are made possible because of these funds!

~Lindsey

Match Day

Match Day on Wednesday, March 4, holds incredible opportunity for McPherson County 4-H. On that day, McPherson County Community Foundation will match donations made to our endowment fund—our long-term savings—and with your help, we could potentially receive up to \$12,000 of the \$60,000 match available. Here’s how Match Day works:

* Come to the event and make a donation. Checks can also be brought in for a donor. If family, friends or supporters can't make it that day, collect their check to bring to the office or Community Foundation for the event. Gifts can also be given online!

Date: Wednesday, March 4

Time: 12 pm – 6 pm (Online giving March 2-4)

Place: McPherson County Community Foundation, 1233 N. Main, McPherson

* Matching funds will be given to our organization based on a proportional basis. For example, if \$100,000 is raised and our organization received 10% of the total donations, we will receive \$6,000 matching funds

* Minimum donation amount per donor for a match is \$25. There is no limit on the amount of funding donors may contribute to the nonprofit organization’s endowed fund.

* Cash, checks and credit cards will be accepted. Make checks payable to: MCCF.

Online giving (March 2-4 to count for Match Day) can be given at: https://mccf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create?funit_id=1003



Walk Kansas 2020 - March 15 - May 9



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

4-H Calendar

March

- 1 Oz-Some 4-H Camp Registration Opens!!!
- 4 Match Day- MCCF
- 7 4-H Club Day- 8:45 AM, Newton
- 8 4-H Day with the Wildcat Women-Manhattan

4-H Council

The next meeting will be held April 2 at 7 PM. Please be sure to have youth and adult reps available from your club! Also- County-wide committees have been beginning correspondence by email- if you would like to join a group, please let Lindsey know!

4-H Online

Remember that you are able to access your enrollment information at any time via 4-H ONLINE. If you would like to add or drop a project for 2020, this must be done by May 1. All final project lists for 4-H fair exhibit eligibility will be printed on May 2. If you have not paid the program fee to the State, please do this ASAP! Contact Lindsey with any questions!

Fair Time is Coming!

Thank you to all the wonderful fair theme ideas that clubs submitted. 4-H Council voted and we have our top three themes!! Remember, these will displayed at 4-H Club Day on March 7 so everyone has an opportunity to vote for our official 2020 theme! The top three choices are:

2020 Vision for 4-H
Dancing with the Steers
FAIRadise

American Legion Family Night

McPherson County 4-H will be the benefitting organization for the May 21 American Legion Family Night! Our responsibilities as 4-H families will be to sell tickets to the event and provide desserts. Each family is expected to sell tickets for this county fundraiser and community event. We will have tickets available after April 16. Tickets will be \$5 each which includes a hamburger, fries, dessert and drink! Please mark this date on your calendars to come eat supper to benefit 4-H! More info will be available after the April 4-H Council Meeting.

Local College Scholarships

Attention High School Seniors! Our McPherson County 4-H Scholarship application is due to the Extension Office by April 1. Thank you to the Development Fund for providing this opportunity! The form can be found online: <https://www.mcpherson.ksu.edu/4-h/awards-recognition/scholarships/index.html>

4-H Club Day

4-H Club Day is March 7 in Newton. Most categories will begin at 8:45 AM. A schedule of the day will be emailed the week prior to the contest. 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 open to everyone! No need to have registered for these items! Come participate and also support your fellow 4-H members! Each club will also be asked to provide Room Monitors for morning events.

Discovery Days

Discovery Days will be held May 27-29, 2020.

Registration forms will be available in early March.

Discovery Days is open to anyone 13 and older before January 1, 2020 and is held on the K-State Campus in Manhattan. For information, please call the Extension Office or check the state website at www.kansas4-h.org.

4-H CAMPFERENCE!

The Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council is excited to plan and host 4-H Campference!!! This event is focused on "betweenagers," youth ages 12-14, and will be held June 22-25, 2020 at Rock Springs 4-H Center.

Participants will experience the feel of a conference, while enjoying the "camp" activities Rock Springs 4-H Center has to offer. Campference will feature workshops about opportunities in the 4-H program, becoming a leader and activities to energize youth while learning healthy living skills and how to better interact with others. Participants will meet other youth from around the state of Kansas.

<https://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/camping/campference/index.html>

4-H Camp

Roaring 20s at Rock Springs!

Registration for OzSome 4-H Camp is OPEN March 1! Please note the following details and helping points below!

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.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

All McPherson County 4-H members are eligible for a scholarship to help with the cost of camp. (Mark yes during registration when asked if you have a scholarship code). You will then be asked to write a paragraph stating "Why you want to attend camp." Upon submitting, you will see a coupon code. Exit from the paragraph page and complete your camp registration with the coupon code. Members attending regular camp will receive \$98 off the price of camp and Rookies will receive \$48. Thank you to the Tractor Supply Paper Clover Campaign for these extra funds to help with the cost of camp!

REGISTRATION— All registration for camp will be done ONLINE again this year! This will include registration information, scholarship paragraph for 4-H members, health profile and payment by credit card or electronic check. Registration is set to open March 1. You can find registration at: <https://app.campdoc.com/register/ozsome>

Registration Notes:

If you are a current McPherson County 4-H Member mark YES when asked if you have a scholarship code. This will bring up more information on how to write a paragraph and receive your code!

You will be asked if you would like to add "Travel Protection" to your camp fee. This is a service offered by Camp Doc NOT by 4-H. We already provide extra insurance the entire time at camp plus travel if you are riding the bus. There is an option to simply decline this extra Travel Protection Offer.

After you complete registration you must still complete the CAMPER PROFILE for each camper. This includes personal and health info as well as T-Shirt size and roommate requests. PLEASE get this done ASAP after registration!!

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. The busses will load in McPherson early afternoon on March 16. 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. Please complete your application at: <https://tinyurl.com/2020MPcounselor>

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.

County-Wide Projects! PLEASE HELP!

We are 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! There are also some funds available to help reimburse project leaders for meeting expenses. Watch for more details soon!

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

Dog- At this time we do not have a committed dog leader for the year and are in search of someone who will help our members learn and succeed! We do have ideas of several individuals who may be willing to do a few meetings- but would need a leader to organize between everyone! Please contact the office if you are willing to take this on!

The state is seeking ideas for the 2020 Kansas 4-H Dog Conference Theme and T-Shirt Design. The 4-H member who creates the winning design idea will receive a free Dog Conference registration for the 2020 event. Submissions are due April 15!

Sheep/Meat Goats -Weigh-In and Tagging will take place in the Fairgrounds Block Building from 3:30 to 6:30 pm on Wednesday, April 29. Please make arrangements to have all your market animals there that day to be tagged!

A Meat Goat Project Meeting will be held on March 24 at 7 PM at the Extension Office. We will be looking at spring show possibilities and have education on meat goat care and showing. Please come learn with this group!

Swine - Swine Tagging will take place on the fairgrounds on Tuesday April 28 from 4:30-7:00 PM.

Leadership Challenge - The deadline for Leadership Challenge Applications is April 1. This is a great chance for you to work on something in leadership that interests you! If you would like to participate, but do not have a project idea, let Lindsey know and she will brainstorm with you! The challenge consists of a plan, carrying out the project, an evaluation and interview. There are cash prizes involved for winners! Find the form online or at the Extension Office!

Geology - A County field trip is set for March 28! Information will be sent to all enrolled members- please contact the Extension Office if you would like attend to try this project!

Photography- Countywide photography meetings have been happening! Correspondence has been emailed to enrolled photo members- please add this project on 4-H Online if you would like to be notified of events!

Horse- Mark your calendars as the SC District Horse show has been set for June 3 in Hutchinson. This is SUPER early- so be planning now to begin your regular horse riding! <https://tinyurl.com/2020MPCounselor>

NEW THIS YEAR- A 4-H member is allowed to show at their home district PLUS ONE ADDITIONAL. You will have to declare which show you will use your state fair qualifications from prior to SF registration. Please remember to complete level 1 testing prior to June. For more information contact the Extension Office. An updated horse rule book can be found at: <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/S133.pdf>

Youth Livestock Quality Assurance - REQUIRED

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

An in person training will be held on Monday, April 13 at the Extension Office. We will begin at 10:45 so we are done by noon! Watch newsletters and email for future opportunities to complete this requirement!

Livestock ID's

Are due into the Office on May 1. 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.





K-State Research & Extension
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Stay Strong, Stay Healthy



Exercise Course Starting Soon!

This 8 week strength training program is designed for older adults. The next session will begin on Tuesday March 31 and go through Thursday, May 21. It will meet at the McPherson County Extension Office from 9:30-10:30 am. Cost is \$20 and registration is limited to 15 participants. Call 620-241-1523 for more information! Classes incorporate:

Warm Up Exercises

Eight Strengthening exercises with
or without hand and ankle weights

Cool Down Stretches

Over the course of the program you will learn exercises to improve strength, balance and flexibility!

AGENT CONTACT INFORMATION

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



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