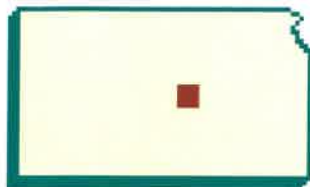


McPherson County



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MAY 2021



Ag News

Shad Marston
County Extension Agent
Agriculture and Natural Resources



May is always one of my favorite months of the year. May brings warmer temperatures and a new season of agriculture. Everyone, including town people and our rural community have different projects that have now come the top of their to do lists. Everyone is thinking about their outside jobs and all that comes with it. Gardens are being planned, flowers are being planted and the joy of just being able to be outside is favorable. Livestock producers are busy tending fences, working cattle and preparing for the upcoming breeding season. Our farmers have already been scouting wheat and alfalfa fields, planting corn and getting their ground ready to plant soybeans and sorghum. Here at the Extension office, the month of May also brings a fresh set of questions to be answered, Extension information to be delivered, dates to be set for tours and Extension programs, and a time to get out and meet with friends out in the community. I want to remind everyone of all the services we provide here at the office of K-State Research and Extension. We offer many diagnostic tests one can get done for your home or farm. We do rent out our soil probe and can send samples on for Soil testing. We offer insect identification along with plant and weed identification and plant disease diagnostic. The Extension office can send samples off for water analysis and grain germination and analysis. In addition, we can get the analysis of hay and other forages for nitrates, protein levels and/or moisture along with the rental of a hay probe, drill and generator. We now have a vaccine cooler to help aid livestock stock producers to ensure their vaccines stay at the right temperature during the day when working cattle or other livestock. We also have Radon kits for sale for \$7.50 along with the neutroleum alpha agent that helps get rid of bad odors. We also have daily and weekly rental of a live trap. Call or stop by the office and let us help you with any of your questions.

Farmers Market starting May 22

Farmers Market will be starting May 22, from 7:30 am till 12:00. Every Saturday between May 22 and the last weekend in October in the Blue Roundtop, 710 West Woodside, McPherson.

The safety steps to follow:

- Vendor tables will be further apart to allow more space for social distancing.
- Vendors will not be serve unpackaged food as samples or for purchase.
- Customers will not be allowed to touch produce before buying.
- Hand washing or hand sanitizing stations will be provided.
- At the Farmer Market, vendors will frequently clean and disinfect high touch surfaces.



Kindergarten - Fifth Grade youth in McPherson County are invited to join in on a special Veggie Garden Project! Participants will be able to pick up several plants to take home and grow through the summer. They will also learn from project newsletters and information and be invited to bring their results back to the 4-H Fair to showcase! Join us on the 4-H Fairgrounds (710 W. Woodside) on Saturday, May 15 from 9:30-11:00 AM to pick up plants and participate in other crafts and activities! All activities and Veggie Garden pick-up are free for participants!

Farm Safety Day Camp

Wednesday, June 9, 2021
McPherson 4-H Fair Grounds
Ages 8-12 years old
8:30-8:45 Sign In at 4-H Building
2:45-3:00 Leave for Home

Registration forms at the
Extension Office
600 W. Woodside,
McPherson.
Call 620-241-1523.



*** Please bring bag chairs and water bottle ***
Deadline to register: Friday, May 24
Limited to first 80 kids!!!

*Sponsored by McPherson County Farm Bureau, McPherson
County Junior Leaders and Mid Kansas Coop in cooperation
with K-State Research & Extension*

K-State Research & Extension Annual Wheat Plot Tour

Friday, May 21st

- 10:00 am Patrick Plot
Marquette on Highway 4
- 1:00 pm Galle Plot
1/4 North of Cheyenne and 23rd Avenue
Moundridge
- 3:00 pm Schroeder Plot
4th and Cheyenne Road
Inman

^ Romulo Lollato
Asst. Professor, Extension Specialist, Wheat & Forages

^ Stewart R. Duncan
Extension Specialist, Crops & Soils

^ Kelsey Andersen Onofer
Plant Pathology

^ Allan Fritz
Professor, Wheat Breeding



It's Time to Start Scouting Wheat for Stripe Rust

A few reports have come in this past week from Southeastern Kansas of stripe rust and the Reports in Kansas are expected to increase in the coming weeks.

With the wheat crop in south central and southeast Kansas approaching or already at the flag leaf emergence stages of growth, growers are encouraged to be on the lookout for stripe rust and other diseases, such as tan spot. When people think of stripe rust, they often visualize the characteristic bright yellowish-orange lesions on adult plants. Symptoms of stripe rust on younger leaves are often less rectangular because the fungal growth within the plant is not limited by the veins of younger leaves.

Scouting tips

When scouting wheat, it is important to look down within the middle layers of the crop canopy for disease symptoms. Wheat puts out new leaves rapidly during the vegetative growth prior to heading. In some cases, plants may add a new leaf every 7-10 days.

Considerations for managing foliar diseases

Timely disease scouting is the first step in assessing the need for foliar fungicide applications. Important foliar diseases for Kansas wheat producers this year include stripe rust, leaf rust, tan spot, and leaf blotch. Producers should scout for symptoms of foliar diseases in the upper canopy, and particularly near the flag leaves of primary tillers. Damage to the flag leaf is most associated with reduced yield. If symptoms are present when scouting, a foliar fungicide application may be considered. There are many fungicides available in Kansas that provide very good to excellent control of foliar diseases and producers should consult the updated *Foliar Fungicide Efficacy for Wheat Disease Management* publication for details.

Cleaning Up Winter Cattle Feeding Areas

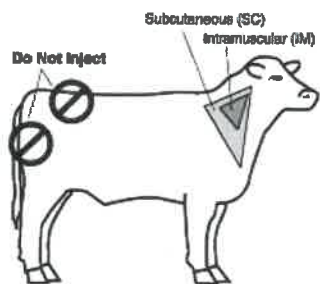
After looking at the importance of cleaning up winter cattle feeding sites as a deterrent to cattle fly activity in the summer, producers are encouraged to find some time this spring to get rid of those fly breeding hotspots.

With that comes the need to clean up our winter feeding sites, Stable flies are starting to emerge with the start of spring; you might even have seen a few around already! Stable flies are distinguishable by four black stripes on the thorax, black checkered spots on the abdomen and large, and a protruding mouthpart. These flies are a common pest feeding primarily on cattle and horses but can also target other livestock species, pets (especially dogs) and humans. Both male and female adult flies are blood feeders and their painful bite and feeding causes significant annoyance and blood loss. Stable flies can negatively affect cattle average daily weight gain, milk production and feeding efficiency. Stable fly control is best achieved by the cleanup of our animal pens & winter feeding areas. Feeding areas are a great breeding site for stable flies, as the female can lay between 500 to 1,000 eggs in her lifespan. Adult stable flies can be controlled through insecticide application with both pyrethroid and organophosphate products being effective although resistance to both is increasing.

Cattle Chat: Needle Size and Care Recommendations

Kansas State beef cattle veterinarians offer advice on needle diameter and length. Anyone who's ever received a vaccination will verify that needle size matters. And that is true with cattle as well.

Many animal health products given to cattle to prevent or treat diseases are injected with a syringe and needle," Larson said. "Selecting the correct size of needle to deliver injections under the skin or into the muscle is important to ensure that the products perform as intended and meet Beef Quality Assurance guidelines."



When it comes to needle selection for cows, he recommends using a 16- or 18-gauge needle. The gauge refers to the diameter of the needle.

An 18-gauge needle is actually smaller than a 16 and in calves we may go even smaller and use a 20-gauge needle," Larson said.

White added that the chosen needle size relates to the thickness of the animal's skin. He said, "Needle size also depends on the viscosity of the product that I'm giving."

Another factor is the needle length.

Larson said the recommended length of the needle is guided by the type of injection given, which is either under the skin or into the muscle.

With an under the skin injection the needle length should be 5/8- or 3/4-inch needle, and with an intramuscular injection the length is closer to 1 1/2-inch needle," Larson said. He added that with calves the recommended length would be closer an inch.

Lastly the veterinarians discussed the recommended frequency for changing needles.

One needle per cow is ideal but depending on the situation you could give up to 10 injections with one needle," Larson said. He added that it is important to make sure the needle is sharp and clean to keep from causing trauma or contamination.

Soil Temperature Update and Cold Injury Concerns for Corn

Selection of the optimal planting date is one of the most critical factors in the decision-making process for producers. In making this decision, producers should consider soil temperatures rather than just calendar dates. Soils have been slow to warm this year, due to the wetter-than-normal conditions in March, as well as the cooler-than-normal temperatures that have lingered into April.

For the 7 day average (April 27), the average soil temperature at 2 inches for McPherson County was 55°F in. Temperatures at the 4-inch depth are not much different was 54°F.

Chilling Injury to seeds

Cold temperatures can result in injury to the germinating seed as it is absorbing moisture – a problem called *imbibitional chilling injury*. Damage to germinating seeds can occur when soil temperatures remain at or below 50 degrees F after planting which we here in McPherson County experienced.



Soil temperatures at the 4-inch depth during the first 24-72 hours after planting are critical. It is during this window that the kernels imbibe water and begin the germination process. Kernels naturally swell when hydrating – taking in water. If the cell tissues of the kernel are too cold, they become less elastic and may rupture during the swelling process, resulting in "leaky" cells. Injury symptoms may include swollen kernels that fail to germinate or aborted growth of the radicle and/or coleoptile after germination has begun.

Chilling injury can also occur following germination as the seedlings enter the emergence process. Chilling injury to seedlings can result in:

- Reduced plant metabolism and vigor, potentially causing stunting or death of the seminal roots
- Deformed elongation ("corkscrewing") of the mesocotyl
- Leaf burn
- Delayed or complete failure of emergence, often leafing out underground

Chilled seedlings may also be more sensitive to herbicides and seedling blights.

Before making any decisions, fields should be scouted 4-7 days after the cold occurred as the extent of the damage and potential for new growth will be evident during this time.

K-State Recommendations for Soybean Planting Dates and Maturity Group

After considering the effects of genetic yield potential and the environment, planting date is one of the primary management practices under the farmer's control that can highly influence soybean yields. In recent years, Kansas producers have been planting soybeans slightly earlier -- at the rate of about one-third-of-day per year. The past growing seasons, however, the "50% planting date" mark was achieved at a similar time (first week of June) statewide -- with exception of 2019 that was marked by extremely wet conditions that resulted in late planting.

Kansas planting dates and maturity groups

Soybeans can be planted over a wide range of dates (Figure 1, upper panel) with adequate soil moisture conditions, although germination and emergence could be reduced and/or delayed in cool soils (less than 60°F). The recommended maturity varies across Kansas by area (Figure 1, lower panel).

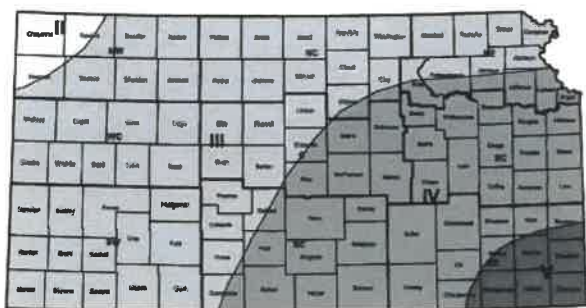


Figure 1. Recommended soybean planting dates (upper panel) and suggested maturity groups (bottom panel) across Kansas. Maps from K-State Research and Extension.

Recommendations

- Ultimately, weather patterns dictate soybean yields, especially under dryland conditions. There is no guarantee that any certain planting date will always work out the best when it comes to soybean yields in Kansas. In fact, the distribution and amount of rainfall and the day/night temperature variations around flowering and during the grain filling periods have large impacts on defining soybean yield potential. Thus, when the risk of drought stress during the growing season is high, diversifying planting dates may be a good approach to consider.
- When planting early (many farmers are trying to plant soybeans before corn), seed should be treated with a fungicide and insecticide. Selecting varieties with resistance to soybean cyst nematode and sudden death syndrome is advisable. Do not plant into soils that are too wet. Also, do not plant until soil temperatures are close to 60°F. If planted into soils cooler than 60°F, seedlings may eventually emerge but will have poor vigor.

- In drier areas of Kansas and on shallow soils, yields have been most consistent when planting soybeans in late May to early June. By planting during that window, soybeans will bloom and fill seed in August and early September, when nights are cooler and the worst of heat and drought stress is usually over.

Producers should consider all these factors when deciding on the planting time. More information about the planting status of summer row crops can be provided at the Extension Office.

Heartworms and Pets

As the weather gets warmer, the risk of heartworm transmission to pets increases, according to a Kansas State University veterinarians.

They reminds all pet owners to Think 12: Administer heartworm preventives 12 times a year and test pets for heartworm every 12 months.

Here are some facts to help pet owners understand more about heartworm disease and how to keep their pets safe.

1. **Heartworm disease is a potentially deadly disease for pets and is spread by mosquitoes.**

Heartworm disease is spread to pets by the bite of a mosquito that is carrying the microscopic infective larval stage, called L3. It takes around six months for the L3 to develop into adult heartworms. Adult heartworms live in the heart and main arteries and they can grow up to 12 inches in length.

2. **Dogs are the most common host for heartworm disease.**

Heartworm disease in dogs often can cause long-term damage to the heart, lungs and arteries and can affect their health and quality of life well after the parasites are gone.

3. **Cats also can be infected with heartworm disease.**

Although Cats are not a preferred host for heartworms they can still have problems.

4. **Heartworm disease can be found across the U.S.**

The American Heartworm Society reports that more than 1 million dogs currently have heartworm disease. and has been diagnosed in all 50 states,

5. **Preventives and treatments are available.**

There are many preventives to help keep your dog or cat from contracting heartworm disease, and puppies and kittens should be started on heartworm preventive no later than 8 weeks of age. Keep up to date with your local vet because prevention is your best bet.





Clover Corner



K-STATE
Research and Extension

Lindsey Mueting
County Extension Agent
4-H Youth Development



Happy May!!! A special congratulations to all of our Seniors preparing for graduation! As we roll into summer it is time to really focus on learning and completion of your 4-H projects! As we begin to have more and more in person opportunities- I would love to talk with you more if you would be willing to host a project experience county-wide for our 4-H members! It is always great to get together with a larger group to learn!

Summer is going to go FAST! Make sure you read the newsletter carefully and get all of the upcoming dates on your calendar! I am most looking forward to Oz-Some 4-H Camp and the 4-H Fair! I am so glad to have a great group of campers to take with me to Rock Springs Ranch! As always- if you have any questions, ideas or other things to chat about- call or email anytime!

~Lindsey

Get Published!

Please get any information you would like included in the June Clover Corner to Lindsey by May 20. Exciting club happenings, project meetings and accomplishments are needed! Email information to LMueting@ksu.edu

Masks

Please remember that at this time Kansas State University Policy says that masks will be worn at all meetings and events. This does apply for our 4-H gatherings. Please be respectful of this University Policy as we work to get back to in person events and keep everyone safe! If policies change we will send the current information out to all families!

4-H Calendar

May	
1	Add/Drop Enrollment Deadline
1	Camp Counselor Application Due
1	Livestock Ids Due
13	Bring Your 4-H Projects to LIFE!
15	Veggie Garden & 4-H Showcase
31	Office Closed- Happy Memorial Day!
June	
1-4	4-H Discovery Days
3	4-H Council
9	Farm Safety Day Camp
24-27	Oz-Some 4-H Camp

Development Fund

The development fund is to end May 1, but we have not received many donations and response forms from you at this time. Please make sure to wrap this up ASAP and bring your reports and donations into the Extension Office!

4-H Council

Just a reminder that the next 4-H Council meeting will be June 3 at 7 PM at the Extension Office. Watch your email for reminders! Have you talked with your club about the last meeting and upcoming happenings?! Has your county-wide Committee met? If you are an officer are you prepared for the upcoming meeting? :-)) See you in June!

McPherson County 4-H Fair

A reminder that the McPherson County 4-H Fair will be held July 23-26, 2021. We are working hard to be able to provide an in-person fair for our 4-H members to showcase their hard work and learning to our judges and the public! We will follow all Kansas State University Policies and make adaptations as needed to have a safe environment for all! 4-H Fairbooks will be available in June!

Jr Leaders

Group Leaders are needed for our Annual Farm Safety Day Camp! You will be paired up and assigned a group to help lead from session to session throughout the day! Day Camp is Wednesday, June 9 and you will be needed from 8:15-3:00. Lunch and a T-Shirt will be provided! Call or email the office to volunteer!

Foods Project Members

Santa Fe Sunflowers 4-H club is organizing a fruit pizza station for the May 15 4-H showcase event. All foods project members in McPherson county are invited to a meeting on Friday, May 14 at 10 am at the 4-H building to help prepare the ingredients. Learn and do together and have another project meeting to mark in your record book! Please RSVP by filling out the google form at <https://tinyurl.com/mpfoods>



Campference

This event is for 4-H youth ages 12-14 who are ready to grow in their leadership and 4-H careers. It will be held June 27-30 at Rock Springs Ranch. Registration is limited and can be found at: www.kansas4h.org/events

Veggie Garden and 4-H Showcase

May 15 from 9:30-11:00 AM will be our first ever 4-H Veggie Garden Pick-up and 4-H Showcase! 4-H Families, clubs or project groups are asked to host a craft, project activity or learning experience that youth in our communities could try as they learn more about 4-H! If you would like to help, but do not have an idea- talk with Lindsey for brainstorming help!

What is Veggie Garden?- K-5th grade youth from across the county will be invited to the fairgrounds to pick up some vegetable starter plants. They will be able to take these home and grow them through the summer while receiving gardening tips and information through newsletters and other program information. Participants will then be able to bring their items to the 4-H Fair for showcase! We are very excited to give this program a try- as a current 4-H member you are welcome to participate as well if you would like!

Ride Into History Santa Fe Trail Summer Camp

Did you know it is the 200th anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail?! And that we have many spots right in our area of Kansas where you can see the trail?! The Santa Fe Trail Association is hosting summer day camps for 4th grade students and older! The McPherson dates are June 21-25 at the McPherson Museum. More information and registration forms can be picked up in the Extension Office. Registration is \$50 for the week long camp and limited to the first 20 participants! You will get to have fun working together to take on the persona of someone from the past through learning, historic clothing and acting!

Flint Hills Farm to Fashion Camp

This new event is for youth, ages 13-18, with a desire to learn more about fiber production and utilization. It will be held at the Kansas State University Sheep and Goat Center in Manhattan. Participants will get the chance to shear a sheep, grade wool, card and comb wool fiber, spin and dye wool yarn, weave a small project from wool, and visit a working sheep farm. Participation is free! No accommodations, travel or meals are provided for participants- adults may attend with their youth.

Campference takes some of the fun aspects of 4-H camp and the learning components of a conference and combines them to create a fun educational opportunity for middle school 4-H youth. It will also include some of our favorites in a new way, like a talent show, a campfire and camp groups. Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council Members serve as counselors for this event.

Campference is \$320. The McPherson County 4-H Development Fund will offer \$150 scholarships to any McPherson County 4-H member who attends if they agree to share their experiences with the 4-H Community in some way when they return. This could be a talk at 4-H Council, the fair, a club meeting, etc! Talk with Lindsey for more details!



Discovery Days

This event is for any youth ages 13-18 before Jan 1, 2021. This will be held June 1-4 in a virtual format. Youth will choose an interest track where they will learn new ideas, skills and techniques as well as participate in additional speaker and group sessions! Registration and additional track choice information can be found at kansas4h.org/events Registration is \$35 and each McPherson County 4-H member will receive a \$20 scholarship making your final cost just \$15!

There are great sessions available for many interests!!!

Geology

The Kansas Geology Action Team is excited to announce three great options for youth to collect specimens and learn from experts in the field. For 2021 there will be three single day field trips offered in different part of the state:

- June 12th – Western Kansas Smoky Hills
- June 19th – Southeast Kansas
- June 26th – Central Kansas

Additional information and registration is not yet available, but save your dates and watch for this soon!!

SAVE THE DATE!

The McPherson County 4-H Social Committee has been hard at work to plan a SUPER FUN outing for all of our 4-H Families! More information will be released soon- but save the afternoon of July 11 for a Family 4-H outing!

Bring Your 4-H Projects to LIFE!
In April we traveled to the Kansas State University College of Vet Med! Now we are headed to learn about Horticulture! The next Bring Your 4-H Projects to LIFE! Session will be Thursday, May 13 at 7 pm on Zoom.

Register at https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cu6gZh3WxslPyaG by May 11 to receive the link and information. Remember- you do NOT have to currently be enrolled in the featured project to participate! Come learn with us!



4-H Families in McPherson County and Central Kansas District 4-H participate in a Family Magic Show last week! What a FUN time to laugh and be amazed together! A special thank you to Conrad Cologne, www.themagicofconrad.com for giving us this opportunity.

4-H Jr Leaders recently completed their 6 session Virtual Exchange with Wisconsin 4-H'ers! We learned a lot from each other and had a great time talking and playing games! We had many of our Jr. Leaders step up their leadership and offer to lead Ice Breakers for the group! Have you ever heard of Blue Moon Ice Cream?! We learned this is a bright blue ice cream popular in Wisconsin! Wildlife and weather were always big discussion topics- ask our 4-H members what all they learned!!





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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