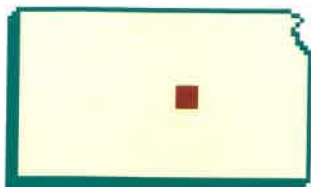


McPherson County



K-State Research & Extension
600 West Woodside, McPherson KS 67460
620-241-1523 FAX 620-241-3407
www.mcpherson.ksu.edu
NOVEMBER 2020



Clover Corner

Lindsey Mueeting
County Extension Agent
4-H Youth Development



We are still in a time of uncertainty and disruptions to our day-to-day world, but the new 4-H year has kicked off and I am looking forward to see all that you accomplish no matter the circumstances! Hopefully you have been able to spend some extra time this fall planning new 4-H projects and enjoying the outdoors. Now is a perfect time to invite a friend to see what 4-H is all about and to set goals (and write them down for your record books!) about 4-H projects! If you have ideas for the new 4-H year that you would like to see in the County, visit with Lindsey or your clubs Council Rep and have them bring it to the next council meeting! If you were unable to attend officer training online October 29, please let me know if you would like an officer guidebook printed.

~Lindsey

4-H Enrollment

It's time to ENROLL!!! Please remember that all enrollment will be done online again this year, but on 4-H Online 2.0! Please log in at <http://ks.4honline.com>. You will use the same email and password as previous years. Remember that the Kansas 4-H Program Fee payment is required. This must be paid by credit card immediately or a check sent to the State 4-H Office within 7 days of enrollment. If you are in need of a fee waiver please indicate upon enrollment. Let Lindsey know what questions you have and try to complete this process ASAP so we can update all of our 2019-20 lists! If you do not have access to the internet or need help with this process you are welcome to visit us in the Extension Office! **NEW THIS YEAR!** The 4-H Development Fund will be purchasing curriculum materials for each enrolled member. To take advantage of this, please enroll and email Lindsey your choices (up to 2 curriculum books) by November 15! Visit www.shop4-h.org to search for books you might be interested in!



November Dates

- * November 1 - 4-H Achievement Celebration (4 PM, P & M Pumpkin Ranch)
- * November 11 - Office Closed
- * November 12 - Bring Your Projects to LIFE! Foods and Nutrition (7 PM, ZOOM)
- * November 21-22 - KYLF, Virtual
- * November 26-27 - Office Closed

4-H Council

The next 4-H Council meeting will be on December 3, 2020. Note that 4-H Council will be meeting on the 1st Thursday of December, February, April, June, August and October. Leaders - please turn in your council representatives ASAP if you haven't already! Congratulations to the 2020 Council Officers:

Kylie Fox - President
Mason OBrien - Vice President
Ellie Seeger - Secretary
Stone Nichols - Treasurer
Cyrus Blough & Mia Bower - Hosts

Thank you to your dedication to McPherson County 4-H!

County-Wide Events

Officer's Training, 4-H Day, Fun Nights... the list goes on! McPherson County 4-H needs YOU to help plan these events! What do you want to see done, what would be an exciting activity to add? Each county activity has a committee to help plan and run the event. EVERYONE is invited to participate on at least one committee; you do not need to be a 4-H Council member. Please talk to your club leader or the Extension Office for more information. Preference forms for committees are due December 1, 2020.

4-H Fair Theme

Time to take ownership in our 4-H Fair Theme! There will again be a contest to determine the theme for 2020. Here are the details:

- Each club will submit one theme to the Extension Office by February 3.
- 4-H Council will decide on the top 3 themes
- Each 4-H member can vote on their favorite theme at 4-H Club Day!

Loaves and Fishes

February is the month that 4-H Club's serve Loaves and Fishes. We still need clubs to sign up for the following dates:

February 7: CC	_____	February 21: LEB	_____
February 14: _____	_____	February 28: _____	_____

Please contact Lindsey with what date your club would like to volunteer! Clubs can work together and double up on weeks!

Newsletter Deadline

Please get Lindsey all of your information (happenings, news, project meeting opportunities) to be published in the December/January Clover Corner Newsletter no later than Nov. 20. Email information to LMueting@ksu.edu or bring to the office.

Meat Goat Meeting

Meat Goat project members will meet on Monday, November 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the Extension Office. We will cover care tips, making warming barrels for kids and discuss a Spring Show opportunity. Hope to see you for our first meeting of the year!

Multi-County 4-H Club Day

We are working hard to make sure this great event is offered to our 4-H members this spring! At this time we have been unable to secure a location and will be continuing to monitor local health situations as we make the best decisions for how the 2021 event will look. But know that there WILL be an opportunity for you- so start thinking about talks and demonstrations and all the other possibilities for your participation! Watch your email in the coming months for a date and location!

BRING YOUR 4-H PROJECTS TO LIFE

A monthly series connecting your 4-H projects, college, and careers.



4-H Project

Each month we will focus on a different 4-H project for 1-hour in a virtual setting. You may find a new passion!



Grow in Your Project Work

Explore ways you can enhance your learning activities within your favorite projects.



Connecting to College & Career Readiness

College professors, professionals in the field, and others will share their experience(s) and help participants grow.

K-STATE
Research and Extension



K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the event contact Lindsey (620-741-1521 / ltruetting@ksu.edu) or Sarah (785-309-5856 / sarah.ash@ksu.edu) four weeks prior to the start of the event. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so.
Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service
K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

K-STATE
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November 12 begins this monthly series with our focus on Foods and Nutrition, featuring K-State Grain Science and Industry. Registrations are still accepted, though we can no longer guarantee an ingredient kit (though you will be provided the recipe and can gather supplies on your own!)

During the 1 hour session we will follow the path that wheat travels to become flour and then on into a baked item, scones. Our expert Jason Watt will explain and demonstrate the art of milling wheat into flour.

From there we will take the newly made flour to Instructor Aaron Clanton and he will demonstrate an interactive step-by-step process to make scones that you can follow along with at home.

Throughout the event Mr. Watt and Mr. Clanton will reveal food chemistry secrets that explain certain phenomena you may encounter in the kitchen.

Register online at: https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_em41G7W7hOpu7YN



Ag News

Shad Marston
County Extension Agent
Agriculture and Natural



This fall K-State Research and Extension is having a 10-part zoom series entitled Landowners with Small Acreage in Agriculture. The virtual series program starts at 7:00pm on Thursday nights and we will have one program in November and two in December before the end of the year. Then continuing in 2021, we have programs scheduled to run every other Thursday, starting back in January, and ending in March. K-State Research and Extension agents and specialists will cover most issues that small acre landowners deal with including pasture improvements, land-lease, fencing laws, all forms of raising different livestock, specialty projects and so much more. This series started in October with both Poultry and Ag Leases educational programs and they can be viewed by clicking on the link under the title to watch the recorded programs. Remember to click on the link of the upcoming programs to register and get your invitation for each one. Please watch our e-mails and social media posts for more information. If you have any questions about it, you can call my office at 620.241.1523

SMALL ACRES AGRICULTURE SERIES



Poultry: October 15
<http://bit.ly/PltryVid>



Pasture/Hay Field Care: January 7
<http://bit.ly/0107PstHay>



Ag Lease: October 29
<http://bit.ly/1029AgLs>



Sheep & Goat - January 21
<http://bit.ly/0121ShpGt>



Getting the most out of your acreage for livestock: November 12
<http://bit.ly/1112Ac4Liv>



Small Fruit: February 4
<http://bit.ly/0204Fruit>



Horses: December 3
<http://bit.ly/1203Horse>



Opportunities with Specialty Crops: March 4
<http://bit.ly/0304SpCrp>



Cattle: December 17
<http://bit.ly/1217Cattle>



Sedgwick Co. Extension
316-660-0144

Harvey Co. Extension
316-284-6930

McPherson Co. Extension
620-241-1523

Emergency Measures to Control Wind Erosion

Cropland can be quite susceptible to wind erosion under some conditions. Cooler-than-normal temperatures and drought conditions may limit vegetative growth and cover. Burning or removing crop residues for forage creates a particularly serious hazard. Winter wheat and other fall-planted crop fields also may be susceptible during periods of low cover in the winter and early spring. This is particularly true during drought. Marginally productive cropland may not produce sufficient residue to protect against wind erosion. In addition, overgrazed or poorly vegetated rangeland may also be subject to wind erosion. Recent wind conditions have been conducive to erosion, given the peak wind gusts that have been recorded in Kansas over the last few days weeks.

It is important to monitor field conditions and identify fields that are in a condition to blow. Such conditions include low vegetation cover and a high proportion of erodible-sized clods (less than 1 mm in size, or about the thickness of a dime). It is better to be proactive and treat potential problems before they occur than to try to react and catch up once a field is actively eroding. Once soil movement has started, it is difficult to completely stop further damage. However, prompt action may prevent a small erodible spot from damaging an entire field or adjacent fields.

Emergency control measures

Mulching. If wind erosion has already started, it can be reduced by mulching with manure or other anchored plant materials such as straw or hay. To be effective, at least 1.5 to 2 tons per acre of straw or grass or 3 to 4 tons per acre of corn or sorghum stover are needed to control areas of erosion, and the straw or hay must be anchored. Residue can be spread by hand, spreader or other mechanical equipment. This is easier done on smaller acreage.

Emergency tillage. Emergency tillage is a last-resort method that can be effective if done promptly and with the right equipment. The goal of emergency tillage is to make the soil surface rougher by producing resistant clods and surface ridges (Figure 1). A rough surface reduces wind speed. The larger clods and ridges resist movement and provide traps to catch the moving soil particles.

Chisels with single or only a few tool ranks are frequently used to roughen the soil surface. The combination of chisel point size, speed, and depth that produces the roughest surface with the firmest, most resistant clods should be used for emergency tillage.

Research has shown that a narrow chisel (2 inches wide) on 24- to 54-inch spacing, operated 3 to 6 inches deep will usually bring enough resistant clods to the surface to control erosion on fine-textured (clay-based) soils. A medium shovel (4 inches wide) can be effective for medium-textured soils (loamy soils). Spacings should typically be narrower where there is no cover and wider in areas of partial cover, such as a growing crop or plant residue.

If the erosion conditions recur or persist, a second, deeper chiseling should split the first spacing. Tillage passes should be made perpendicular to the direction of the prevailing wind causing the erosion.



Figure 1. Widely spaced shanks used for emergency tillage, making clods to roughen the soil surface. Photo courtesy of University of Nebraska.

If emergency tillage is to be used in growing crops that are covered by crop insurance, producers should check with their crop insurance providers regarding emergency tillage insurance rules. Emergency tillage does not significantly reduce wheat yields of an established crop. Studies in southwest Kansas and Manhattan demonstrate that the use of a chisel on 40-inch spacing reduced wheat yields by 5.5 bushels per acre on the emergency tillage area, due to direct injury caused by the tillage action. Since the entire field is rarely tilled when performing emergency tillage, the overall yield reduction for the field will be less than 5.5 bushels per acre. In fact, yields in the untilled portion of the field actually can be increased by the use of emergency tillage since that tillage will reduce the amount of damage to wheat caused by wind erosion. The overall reduction in yield for fields that have received emergency tillage has been as little as 1 bushel per acre in the studies mentioned above.

Tips for effective emergency tillage

- ✘ Watch the weather forecast for periods of high winds, particularly when soils are dry.
- ✘ Assess residue and plant cover prior to the wind blowing, and take preventive action with emergency tillage. It is much easier to prevent the problem from starting than to stop erosion after it begins. If you wait, the soil only gets drier and some moisture is needed to form clods.
- ✘ Use the combination of tractor speed, tillage depth, and chisel point size that will produce the roughest surface with the most resistant clods. If wind erosion is anticipated, do some test tillage prior to an erosion event to see what tillage tool, depth, and speed will provide adequate clods and surface roughness.
- ✘ Always start at the upwind location when the field is blowing. A sufficient area upwind of the eroding spot should be tilled, in addition to the area presently blowing.
- ✘ Till in a direction perpendicular to the prevailing wind direction. For row crop areas it may be necessary to compromise direction and follow the row pattern. Maintain as much anchored stubble in the field as possible.

Garden Corner

✳ Service mower before putting it away for the year

Even if they have not yet gone dormant, many Kansas lawns are starting to slow their growth, which means homeowners are starting to eye a more permanent spot for storing their lawnmower. It's important to service the mower before tucking it in for the winter. Make sure you drain the tank of gasoline-powered engines, or use a gasoline stabilizer. Untreated gasoline can become thick and gummy. Then, remove the spark plug and squirt a few drops of oil inside the hole to lubricate the cylinder. While the spark plug is removed, consider replacing it with a new one.

If your equipment has a battery, clean the battery terminals, which usually corrode during the season. A wire-bristle brush is a good tool for doing this. The battery can then be removed or connected to a battery maintainer that will keep it charged over winter. If removing the battery, store it in a protected location for the winter, a cool basement works best.

The mower's blade also can be sharpened now so that it is ready when the work starts up again next spring. Other steps to follow include:

- ✎ Check the blade for major damage. If you can't fix it, consider replacing the blade.
- ✎ Remove grass and debris from the blade with a moist cloth. Dry the blade before sharpening the cutting edge.
- ✎ Remove nicks from the edge with a grinding wheel or hand file. If using a grinding wheel, match the existing edge angle to the wheel. If hand-filing, file at the same angle as the existing edge.
- ✎ Grind or file until the edge is 1/32 inch. Sharpening to a razor edge may result in the edge folding over during use, resulting in a poor cut.
- ✎ Clean the blade with solvent or oil for optimum winter storage. Avoid using water because it promotes rust.

✳ Control broadleaf weeds in lawns now

The best time to eliminate weeds is while they're growing. Many common broadleaf weeds in lawns may not be popping their heads up high right now, but late October and early November is the best time to do battle with them. Dandelions typically produce a flush of new plants in late September, and winter annual weeds henbit and chickweed should have germinated in October. These young plants are small and easily controlled with herbicides such as 2,4-D or combination products -- such as Trimec, Weed-B-Gon, Weed-Out -- that contain 2,4-D, MCPP and dicamb. Even established dandelions are more easily controlled now than in the spring because they are actively moving materials from the top portion of the plant to the roots in the fall. Herbicides will translocate to the roots as well, and will kill the plant from the roots up. Homeowners should apply the products according to label instructions and choose a day that is 50 degrees or higher. The better the weed is growing; the more weed killer will be moved from the leaves to the roots. Cold temperatures will slow this product, even though these products will still work at lower temperatures. One product -- Weed Free Zone (also sold under the name Speed Zone) contains all three active ingredients conducive to killing unwanted weeds. It will give a quicker response than the other product, especially if temperature are below 50 degrees.

Replanting Decisions For Winter Wheat

As wheat growers evaluate their wheat stand, some may be considering replanting fields yet this fall. The most likely cause of poor or uneven emergence for many fields is a severe lack of precipitation prior to planting and in the following days. If dry soils are the cause of the problem, replanting will not bring many benefits unless the seed has partially germinated and perished before emerging. It is very important to dig into the soil and evaluate the seed to determine the cause of poor emergence. Wheat seeds may still be germinating and emergence may occur in the next few days, depending on temperatures. Thus, if seed are still hard and viable, or if germination started to occur recently and there are very short coleoptile emerging from the seed, the best advice is to leave the field alone.

When deciding whether to replant wheat fields it is helpful to consider these factors: 1. stand uniformity, 2. percent stand compared to the target stand, 3. replanting date, 4. weed control, and 5. insurance cutoff date.

In summary, in fields in which topsoil moisture was variable at time of planting, some seeds might have germinated and emerged where soil moisture was sufficient, while others might have started the germination process but perished. The target number of plants per row foot is influenced by seeding rate, seed size, and row spacing, and considering 80% emergence. As of late October, most of the state has passed the optimum sowing date. For portions of the field with no established stand (the entire stand will need to be replanted), producers should plan to increase their seeding rates by 10-15% for every week past the optimum sowing date. A thin wheat stand can increase the potential for weed and grass infestations. In fields with a history of severe weed problems, the wheat stand should probably be replanted or thickened. Finally, some producers might also consider insurance cut-off dates, as they need to ensure their crop is planted prior to this date.

Musk Thistle Control Is Best Performed In The Fall

Musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*) is one of 12 state-wide noxious weeds in Kansas infesting over 700,000 acres. Musk thistle has been reported in nearly every county in Kansas and is found primarily in pastures, rangeland, hay meadows, alfalfa, fallow, roadsides, and waste areas.

Musk thistle is primarily a biennial or winter annual species. Biennials take two growing seasons to complete their life cycle. Thistles that germinate in the spring will spend the entire summer as a rosette, live through the winter, and bolt the next year in May and June. Winter annual plants will germinate with moisture and warm temperatures in the fall, live through the winter, and bolt the following year.

Most people recognize musk thistle during the early summer when the plants are actively blooming. However, musk thistle control is easiest as a rosette (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Musk thistle in flowering and rosette stages of growth. Photo courtesy of Walt Fick, K-State Research and Extension.

Fall is an excellent time to spray musk thistle as all are in the rosette stage of growth. Another advantage for treatment in the fall is reduced risk of off-target drift. Waiting until most deciduous trees have lost their leaves and most crops are harvested will greatly reduce the likelihood of damage from herbicide drift. A wider window of opportunity for treating musk thistle also exists in the fall. The spraying window in the fall probably extends until the ground is frozen and the musk thistle plants have shut down activity until warmer temperatures in the spring. Freezing temperatures will start to damage musk thistle plants, with some yellowing and curling of leaves. However, the plants are susceptible to herbicides as long as green tissue exists.

Dry conditions in the fall can reduce control of musk thistle with certain herbicides, but studies in Kansas indicated that a fall application of 2,4-D LVE at 2 lbs per acre was more effective (80% control) than a similar rate of 2,4-D amine (49% control). Dicamba + 2,4-D amine at 0.25 + 0.75 lbs per acre and picloram at 0.125 lbs per acre were also effective (>90% control) on musk thistle treated in the fall.

Data presented in Table 1 were collected in July 2013 following treatment on December 6, 2012. Conditions at the time of treatment were 50 degrees F air temperature, 66% relative humidity, and 6-8 mph wind speed. Skies were overcast and cloudy. All treatments provided excellent control of rosettes present at the time of spraying (data not shown).

The data in this table reflect residual control of rosettes that germinated during spring 2013. The number of rosettes on untreated plots increased 92% between December 2012 and July 2013, indicating spring germination. The only treatment not providing nearly 100% residual control was 2,4-D LVE applied at 64 fl oz per acre. The active ingredient in Milestone is aminopyralid. Tordon 22K contains 2 lbs per gallon picloram. Chaparral contains aminopyralid and metsulfuron. These products are all labelled for use on range and pasture. Milestone, 2,4-D, and Tordon 22K are also labeled for use on non-cropland sites including roadsides, right-of-ways, and industrial sites. Opensight was not included in this test, but is a product similar to Chaparral that can be used on non-cropland sites.

Table 1. Musk thistle control with herbicides applied on December 6, 2012.

Herbicide	Rate	% control, July 5, 2013
Milestone	3 fl oz	99
Milestone	4 fl oz	100
Milestone	5 fl oz	100
Tordon 22K	10 fl oz	100
2,4-D LVE	64 fl oz	43
Chaparral	1.5 oz	100
Untreated	---	0

If you need to treat musk thistle this fall, herbicides exist that will not only control the rosettes at the time of application, but will carryover and control new emerging rosettes next spring. If possible, select a warm, sunny day when spraying musk thistle this fall.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

AGENT CONTACT INFORMATION

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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