

McPherson County

K-STATE EXTENSION NEWS

October 2026



Photo Credit: Lauralee Myers, KSE
McPherson County
American Discovery Relay Riders



Shad Marston, Agriculture & Natural Resources, County Agent

The days are getting shorter, the mornings are cooler, and the leaves are beginning to show a little color. The sounds of harvest equipment can be heard in the countryside, cattle are moving through pastures, and the calendar seems to remind us that another year is moving right along. For those of us involved in agriculture, this time of year can be busy. It is a time of preparation.

Wheat producers are making final decisions and getting ready to put seed in the ground. Variety selection, planting dates, soil fertility, seed quality and disease management all play a role in getting a wheat crop off to a good start. One of the things I appreciate about Extension is that we can bring research-based information from K-State specialists directly to our local producers and help them make decisions that fit their farms. Fall Harvest is still underway with soybean and sorghum left to be cut and hauled to town.

-Shad

Fall Brings a New Set of Management Decisions

Shad Marston, McPherson County Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent

October is one of those months when agriculture seems to move in several directions at once. Harvest is wrapping up, winter wheat is getting established, cattle are moving into fall management, and producers are beginning to think about winter feed supplies and next year's production.

For cattle producers, October is an important time to evaluate the cow herd. Fall provides an opportunity to look closely at body condition, pregnancy status, herd health and available forage. Cows that are going into winter in the proper body condition will be better prepared for the nutritional demands ahead. Pregnancy checking, fall vaccinations and a review of the herd's mineral program are also important pieces of a good fall management plan. Forage should also be part of that discussion. Don't assume that because pastures still have some green color that cattle are receiving all the nutrition they need. As warm-season grasses mature and the growing season comes to an end, forage quality changes. A forage test can provide valuable information when making decisions about supplementation and winter feeding.

Winter wheat is another major October management consideration. Getting a good stand established is only the first step. Producers should continue to scout fields for emergence, stand establishment, insects, weeds and disease concerns.

Volunteer wheat and grassy weeds can also create problems by providing a "green bridge" for diseases and insect vectors between wheat crops. Good fall management can pay dividends when the crop comes out of winter and begins to grow next spring. K-State Research and Extension provides producers with research-based information on wheat, forage, soil fertility, weed management and crop production. The K-State Extension Agronomy program continues to provide timely information through its Agronomy eUpdates and other resources.

October is also a good month to think about the condition of your soil. Soil testing isn't just something to do before planting. Fall can be an excellent time to evaluate nutrient levels and begin planning fertilizer applications for the next crop. A good soil test, combined with realistic yield goals and current crop-production information, can help producers make more informed fertility decisions.

Fall Brings a New Set of Management Decisions Cont'd

As the leaves begin to turn and the days get shorter, there is plenty happening around the farm and ranch. Fall is a season of transition, but it is also a season of opportunity. The management decisions made now can have an impact on livestock performance, crop establishment and profitability well into the coming year. As always, if there is an agriculture question you are dealing with on your farm or ranch, give the McPherson County Extension office a call. One of the advantages of K-State Research and Extension is the connection between local producers and the research and expertise available through Kansas State University.

High Nitrates and Prussic Acid: What Should Cattle Producers Watch For?

Shad Marston, McPherson County Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent

The weather pattern we have experienced this year is a good reminder that cattle producers need to pay attention to forage conditions, not just the calendar. We have gone through a period of hot and dry weather, and now we have cooler temperatures and moisture. That change can be good news for forage growth, but it can also create some livestock health concerns.

Two things cattle producers should have on their radar this fall are high nitrates and prussic acid. These concerns are particularly important in sorghum, sudangrass, sorghum-sudangrass hybrids and other summer annual forages. Johnsongrass and some other plants can also present risks.

High Nitrates

Plants can accumulate nitrates during periods of environmental stress. During drought, plants may continue taking up nitrate from the soil while their ability to convert that nitrate into plant proteins is limited. When a drought is followed by rain (just what we have experienced), plants can take up nitrate rapidly. Cool temperatures and extended cloudy conditions can also contribute to nitrate accumulation because photosynthesis is slowed. K-State notes that temperatures below about 55°F can favor nitrate accumulation in warm-season plants. That makes the current transition from hot, dry weather to cooler, wetter conditions something to watch closely.

Don't assume that new green growth means the forage is safe.

Nitrate concentrations are often highest in the lower portion of the plant stalk. Producers should be especially cautious about cattle grazing plants down close to the ground or being forced to eat the lower stems. If you are concerned about a forage, test it before feeding or grazing. A forage test is much cheaper than dealing with a livestock loss. K-State recommends that cattle be kept off potentially high-nitrate forage for a period following a drought-ending rain and that suspect forages be analyzed before feeding.

Prussic Acid

Prussic acid, also called hydrogen cyanide or HCN, is a different concern but can occur in many of the same forages. Prussic acid is most commonly associated with sorghums, sudangrass, sorghum-sudangrass hybrids, Johnsongrass and related plants.

The risk increases in young, rapidly growing plants and new regrowth following drought or frost. One of the biggest situations to watch for is drought followed by rain. A drought-stressed plant may suddenly begin producing lush new growth. That new growth can contain dangerously high concentrations of prussic acid. The first hard frost of the fall is another important warning sign. Frost damages plant cells and can release cyanide compounds. K-State recommends waiting before grazing after a killing frost to allow the hydrogen cyanide to dissipate.

A Few Simple Rules

When dealing with potentially toxic summer annual forages this fall:

- Don't turn hungry cattle into stressed sorghum or sudangrass.
- Be cautious with new growth following a drought-ending rain.
- Be especially careful following frost or freeze events.
- Don't assume green forage is automatically safe.
- Test questionable forage for nitrates and/or prussic acid.
- Remember that nitrate levels generally remain in hay, while prussic acid can dissipate as forage dries; however, suspect hay should still be tested before feeding.
- If you are unsure about a forage, keep the cattle out until you know what you are dealing with.

The symptoms of nitrate and prussic acid poisoning can be similar, and both can result in death. Prussic acid poisoning can progress extremely rapidly. The bottom line is simple: this is a year to look twice before turning cattle onto drought-stressed summer annual forage. The recent rain and cooler temperatures may have improved forage appearance, but appearance alone doesn't tell us what is happening inside the plant. A forage test and a little patience can go a long way toward protecting the cow herd.

If you have questions about sampling forage, interpreting a forage test or managing potentially toxic forage, contact the McPherson County Extension office. K-State Extension has resources available to help producers make those fall grazing and feeding decisions.

CHICKEN PROCESSING



Learn the basics of chicken processing!



November 10, 2026
6:00 p.m.



Wal-Mar Charolais
1838 27th Ave, Canton, KS



\$15 Fee

*Everyone gets a bird
to take home!*



Scan the QR code
to register and
sign the waiver.



K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.





Clover Corner



Laura Savage
4-H Youth Development Extension Agent

Laura's Letter

Pumpkin spice lattes? Sweater weather? Football nearly every night? A new 4-H year?! As I ponder everything that happens in October, it is no wonder that it is one of my favorite months of the year!

This year, we are hosting a National 4-H Week Challenge! Join efforts with your fellow club members to be named the top 4-H club in McPherson County 4-H! Spoiler alert: the winning club will get to eat first at the Achievement Banquet (among other prizes to be announced). As we start our new 4-H year, let's start on a high note with showing our communities that McPherson County 4-H is active and growing!

-Laura

Stay in the Know!

**Want to stay updated with McPherson County
4-H and other Extension Programs?**

Follow us on Facebook!

Want to receive text message notifications?

TEXT "ALERT" to 22300



One Call Now--Text "ALERT" to 22300



McPherson County Extension Office



McPherson County 4-H

Schedule of Events

Oct. 1	Applications and Record Books Due
Oct. 1	New 4-H Year Begins!
Oct. 1	4-H Council Meeting
Oct. 4-10	National 4-H Week
Oct. 5	Photography Explorations
Oct. 10-Nov. 10	Match Month
Oct. 15	Registration Deadline for KYLF
Oct. 16	Achievement Banquet Ticket Deadline
Oct. 19	Pizza Ranch Community Impact Night
Oct. 29	Trunk or Treat
Nov. 1	Achievement Banquet



Master Schedule

McPherson County 4-H Master Calendar:

*****Dates are accurate at the time of publication. Changes may occur as additional classes and opportunities are identified.*****

Do you ever find yourself wondering, “What on earth is going on in McPherson County 4-H?” Me too! 😊 Here is a master calendar of important dates until the end of December!

Sept. 28	Photography Explorations, Maxwell Wildlife Refuge, 6:30 PM
Sept. 29	Ambassador Meeting (Zoom)
Sept. 30	Projects for Library Due to Office
Oct. 1	Applications and Record Books Due (Pin, Club Seal, Ambassador, “I Dare You”, etc.)
Oct. 1	New 4-H Year Begins! Enroll in 4-H Online!
Oct. 1	4-H Council Meeting
Oct. 4-10	National 4-H Week
Oct. 5	Photography Explorations, Extension Office , 7:00 PM
Oct. 10	Great Plains Nature Photographers Meeting
Oct. 10-Nov. 10	Match Month
Oct. 15	Registration Deadline for Kansas Youth Leadership Forum
Oct. 16	Deadline for Achievement Banquet Tickets
Oct. 16	Deadline for Wichita Thunder Education Day Tickets (limited supply, order early)
Oct. 19	Pizza Ranch Community Impact Night
Oct. 29	Trunk or Treat (5:30-7:00 PM), Main Street in McPherson
Nov. 1	Achievement Banquet
Nov. 1	Pick up library projects at Achievement Banquet
Nov. 2	Club Financial Reports Due
Nov. 2	Fundraiser with Scooters in McPherson
	<i>% of profits will be donated to McPherson County 4-H if individuals order & say “McPherson County 4-H”</i>
Nov. 10	Fiber Arts Explorations
Nov. 11	Education Day at Wichita Thunder
Nov. 15	4-H Enrollment Deadline to have enrollment fees waived
Nov. 21-22	Kansas Youth Leadership Forum
Dec. 1	Countywide Committee Application Due (contact Laura for more info)
Dec. 3	4-H Council Meeting (email)
Dec. 12	Fundraiser with The Locker Room, McPherson
	<i>20% of profits and ALL tips will be donated to McPherson County 4-H</i>

National 4-H Week Challenge

This year we will start a National 4-H Week Challenge! This will be a competition between clubs with a variety of ways to earn points throughout National 4-H Week and the month of October!

How Do I Earn Points?

Activity/Event	Points Earned
Wear a McPherson County 4-H Shirt to School during National 4-H Week	1 point/member
Send a thank you note to a volunteer, club leader, or mentor	2 points/note Max: 1 member can only earn 10 points
Send a letter to the county commissioners (template provided, bring the completed letter to Extension Office)	5 points/member
Display at School or Community Space	5 points/display
Participate in Community Impact Night at Pizza Ranch	10 points/member or volunteer
Speech or Presentation at School	10 points/member
Have a friend or classmate (non 4-H member) attend a 4-H meeting or 4-H event with you	15 points/new member
Participate in McPherson County 4-H Trunk or Treat	50 points/club
Food Drive *points calculated by average number of food items per member* *If you receive a cash donation, \$1=1 food item*	>1 food item per member: 10 points >3 food items per member: 20 points 3-5 food items per member: 50 points >5, <10 food items per member: 75 points 10-20 food items per member: 100 points 20+ food items per member: 150 points

National 4-H Week Challenge

This year we will start a National 4-H Week Challenge! This will be a competition between clubs with a variety of ways to earn points throughout National 4-H Week and the month of October!

How Do I Earn Points (Cont.)?

An image of you completing the event must be submitted to Laura via email by Monday, October 12th @ 5:00 PM! This includes food drive item totals!

Events excluded from this deadline include the Community Impact Night and Trunk or Treat participation since these may happen after National 4-H Week ends.

When will the winner be announced?

I will announce the winner at the Achievement Banquet! The winning club will receive a cash donation to their club and will be recognized at the Achievement Banquet!

The second-place club will also receive a cash donation to their club!

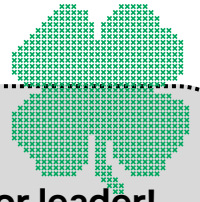
How will the winners be calculated?

Winners will be calculated based on the average points earned per member enrolled in the club! This is to help reduce the advantage of larger clubs.

For example, Club A has 50 members and earns 400 points (average 8 points/member). Club B has 12 members and earns 160 points (average 13.33 points/member). Club B would win due to the average number of points earned per member.

Fiber Arts Explorations

Register by November 2nd for our Fiber Arts Explorations class!



Learn how to cross-stitch with the help of our project leaders and junior leader!

Fiber Arts Explorations will be held on Tuesday, November 10th in our 4-H Building!

Registration form is included in the Weekly Wednesday.

Upcoming Fundraisers

Match Month: We are participating in Match Month from October 10th-November 10th! We will be posting on our Facebook page; please share with your donors!

4-H Building Air Conditioner Fund: This is an active fundraiser to install an air conditioner unit in the 4-H Building. The following fundraisers (Pizza Ranch, Scooters, and The Locker Room) will benefit this fund.

Pizza Ranch Community Impact Night: McPherson County 4-H will help bus tables and greet customers at the door on Monday, October 19th. 10% of all sales and all cash tips will be donated to McPherson County 4-H!

Scooters in McPherson: Scoot on over to the Scooters in McPherson on Monday, November 2nd. A percentage of the day's sales will be donated to McPherson County 4-H!

The Locker Room in McPherson: Did you need another excuse to go to the Locker Room? On Saturday, December 12th, the Locker Room in McPherson will donate 20% of all sales and ALL cash and card tips to McPherson County 4-H!

Air Conditioner

Were you nice and comfortable in the 4-H building at the Fair?

Support the 4-H Building Air Conditioner Fund!

This is a community fundraiser to purchase and install an air conditioner unit in the 4-H Building! Not only do we use this building during our McPherson County 4-H Fair, this building serves multiple county businesses, organizations, and residents throughout the year!

Know someone who uses the 4-H building throughout the year? Thank you for reading the newsletter! Email Laura the key word "clover" to claim a prize! Make sure to share this important fundraising opportunity with them!



https://mccf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=5336

Event Spotlights

Explorations RECAP

September/October: 4-H members, led by volunteers Robin and Paul Johnson, learned how to take photos using a cell phone and even took a trip out to Maxwell Wildlife Refuge!

November: Fiber Arts Explorations

January: Veterinary Science Explorations

March: Rocketry Explorations

May/June: Entomology Explorations

Are you a junior leader or volunteer and would like to lead a class? Contact Laura!



Cell Phone Photography



Cell Phone Photography



Cell Phone Photography



Cell Phone Photography

**GREAT PLAINS
NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS
ANNUAL MEETING & EVENTS**

*Free for 4-H
members!*

OCTOBER 10, 2026

Keynote Speaker: Brennen Nicole





Help Us Fill the 2027 My Hometown Calendar with Community Events

Work is well underway on the 2027 My Hometown Calendar, and this year's calendar will mark its fifth anniversary!

The calendar connects residents with celebrations, educational programs, festivals, fundraisers and other activities taking place throughout McPherson County. We need your help to make the 2027 calendar as complete and useful as possible.

If your community, organization, school, church, business, or civic group is planning a 2027 event open to McPherson County residents, please submit it for possible inclusion. This year, we printed 1,000 copies of the calendar, and we are looking to do the same for 2027.

We are especially striving to include events from every city in McPherson County. Help make sure your city and organization are represented by sharing festivals, workshops, fundraisers, performances, celebrations, fairs, youth activities, and other public events.

You do not need to have every detail finalized before submitting an event. If you know the date, add it to the calendar now. Each month of the printed calendar will include a link to online event details, allowing residents to find updated times, locations and other information as plans are completed.

Submit your 2027 event at:
tinyurl.com/MCAddEvent

Let the 2027 My Hometown Calendar help spread the word about your event while connecting residents with opportunities throughout McPherson County!

Show Us Your McPherson County

Enter the 2027 My Hometown Calendar Photo Contest
What makes McPherson County feel like home to you?

McPherson County residents are invited to submit original photographs for the 2027 My Hometown Calendar Photo Contest. Selected photographs will help tell the story of the people, places, landscapes, and everyday moments that make our county special.

Residents may submit photographs for an opportunity to be included in the 2027 calendar. Four photographs will be selected as featured photos, and additional submissions may be recognized as honorable mentions and included elsewhere in the calendar.

Possible subjects include:

- McPherson County landscapes and seasonal scenes
- Communities, neighborhoods and recognizable local places
- Agriculture and rural life
- Community celebrations and traditions
- Parks, trails, flowers, and wildlife
- Historic buildings or local architecture
- Volunteers and residents in action
- Everyday moments that reflect life in McPherson County

We encourage photographers of all experience levels to participate. You do not need professional equipment. A memorable photograph can be taken with a camera or a mobile device. Look for images that are clear, well-lit, and representative of McPherson County.

Photographs should be original work submitted by a McPherson County resident. If recognizable individuals appear in a photograph, the photographer should have their permission before submitting the image. Additional contest requirements and submission information are available on the entry form.

Enter now: **<https://tinyurl.com/MHCPphoto27>**

Help us celebrate the beauty, character, and community spirit of McPherson County. Your photograph could be part of the 2027 My Hometown Calendar!



Photo Source: Lauralee Myers, KSE-McPherson County

Pause, Verify, and Protect Yourself from Scams

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, a good time to review how we protect our personal information, financial accounts, and electronic devices. Scammers are becoming increasingly convincing. They may impersonate banks, government agencies, utility companies, delivery services, businesses, or even people we know.

Scammers often use similar tactics. Watch for these warning signs:

- The message creates fear or urgency and pressures you to act immediately.
- Someone claims there is a problem with an account, a family emergency, or a prize waiting for you.
- You are told to keep the situation secret from family members, friends, or your financial institution.
- Someone demands payment through gift cards, cryptocurrency, wire transfer, or a payment application.
- You receive an unexpected request for a password, verification code, Social Security number, or banking information.
- A message includes an unfamiliar link, attachment, or QR code.
- Someone says you must pay a fee before receiving a prize or benefit.

Scammers can disguise telephone numbers, email addresses, and websites. A familiar name on the caller ID or a professional-looking message does not prove the request is legitimate.

If you receive an unexpected request, pause before responding. Contact the business, financial institution, or government agency using a telephone number or website you locate independently. Do not use the contact information or links provided in suspicious messages.

You can also protect yourself by:

- Using a long, unique password for each account
- Using a reputable password manager
- Enabling multifactor authentication
- Keeping computers, phones, applications, and security software updated
- Never share a one-time security or verification code with someone who contacts you
- Regularly reviewing your bank, credit card, and credit reports
- Backing up important files and photographs

If you believe you paid a scammer, contact your bank, credit card company, or payment provider immediately. Ask whether the transaction can be stopped or reversed. Change affected passwords and saved messages, receipts, telephone numbers, and other evidence.

Report fraud, scams, and dishonest business practices at ***ReportFraud.ftc.gov***. If someone has used your personal information to open accounts, make purchases, or file documents in your name, visit ***IdentityTheft.gov*** for a personalized recovery plan.

Kansas residents may also file a consumer complaint with the Kansas Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at ***ag.ks.gov*** or call 785-296-2215. If there is an immediate threat or an active crime, contact local law enforcement.

A few extra minutes spent verifying a request can protect your identity, money, and peace of mind. Slow down, talk with someone you trust, and check the information before you act.

Estate Planning Includes More Than Money

National Estate Planning Awareness Week is October 19 through 25, 2026. It provides a reminder that estate planning is not only for people with significant wealth. Adults of all ages and income levels can benefit from making plans, communicating their wishes, and reviewing important documents as circumstances change.

An estate plan may address wills, beneficiaries, property ownership, powers of attorney, health care wishes, and plans for minor children or other dependents. Because laws and individual circumstances differ, consult qualified legal, financial, and tax professionals when preparing or updating an estate plan.

One part of planning that is easily overlooked is the transfer of non-titled personal property. These are possessions that do not have legal ownership documents, such as:

- Photographs and family records
- Recipes and letters
- Quilts and other handmade items
- Tools and equipment
- Furniture
- Jewelry
- Holiday decorations
- Collections
- Family keepsakes

These belongings may have limited financial value but tremendous emotional value. A yellow pie plate, handwritten recipe, piece of furniture, or set of tools may represent memories, traditions, and relationships. Because family members may attach different meanings to the same item, disagreements can arise when no plan has been made.

Estate Planning Includes More Than Money Cont'd

The Extension program: **Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate?** provides practical, research-informed strategies to help families plan for the transfer of personal possessions. It encourages families to:

- Identify belongings that may have special meaning.
- Share the stories connected to important objects.
- Discuss what “fair” means within the family.
- Determine what the owner hopes to accomplish.
- Consider different methods for distributing belongings.
- Include appropriate family members in the conversation.
- Decide how questions or disagreements will be handled.

Begin with a simple conversation: “Which belongings are especially meaningful to you, and why?”

Listen to the answers and record the stories connected to important possessions. If an owner has strong wishes about who should receive an item, those wishes should be clearly communicated and documented through an appropriate planning process.



Planning ahead does not guarantee that every family member will agree with every decision. However, early and respectful communication can reduce uncertainty, preserve family stories, and help protect relationships.

K-State Extension can provide educational resources to help families begin these conversations. Contact McPherson County Extension if you, your organization, or your community group would be interested in a future **Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate?** program.

This article is for educational purposes and is not a substitute for individualized legal, financial, or tax advice.

Recognize the Signs and Help Someone Find Support

October is National Bullying Prevention Month. Bullying can affect a young person's safety, sense of belonging, and overall well-being.

Bullying involves unwanted aggressive behavior among school-aged children, a real or perceived imbalance of power, and behavior that is repeated or has the potential to be repeated. Bullying can be verbal, physical, social, or electronic.

Not every disagreement, unkind comment, or conflict is bullying. Conflict between children of relatively equal power still deserves attention, but it may require a different response.

Children and teens may not tell an adult when they are being bullied. They may feel embarrassed, fear retaliation, believe that reporting will make the situation worse, or think they should handle the problem on their own.

Possible signs that a young person is being bullied include:

- Unexplained injuries
- Lost or damaged clothing, electronics, books, or other belongings
- Frequent headaches, stomachaches, or requests to stay home
- Changes in eating habits
- Difficulty sleeping or recurring nightmares
- Declining grades or loss of interest in school
- Avoidance of friends or social activities
- Feelings of helplessness or reduced self-esteem
- Sudden changes in mood or behavior

There may also be signs that a child is bullying others. These can include increased aggression, frequent physical or verbal fights, blaming others, refusing to accept responsibility, unexplained money or possessions, or an intense concern about popularity or reputation.

A warning sign does not automatically prove that bullying is occurring. It does indicate that a calm, private conversation may be needed.

If you are concerned, listen without immediately blaming, judging, or promising a specific outcome. Ask what happened, who was involved, when and where it occurred, and what would help the young person feel safer. Make it clear that bullying is not their fault and that asking for help is the right thing to do.

For bullying at school, contact the teacher, school counselor, or principal. Work with the school to document the behavior and create a plan for protecting the student.

For cyberbullying:

- Save screenshots, messages, dates, usernames, and account information.
- Block the person when appropriate.
- Report the behavior to the social media platform, website, or service.
- Do not publicly retaliate or forward harmful material.
- Notify the school if the behavior involves students or affects the school environment.

Adults can help prevent bullying by modeling respectful behavior, including others, correcting harmful comments, and teaching young people how to be safe upstanders. An upstander supports the person being targeted, tells a trusted adult, and avoids escalating the situation.

If someone is in immediate danger, call **911**. If a person feels hopeless, is considering self-harm, or talks about suicide, call or text **988** for free, confidential crisis support. Additional bullying-prevention information is available at [StopBullying.gov](https://stopbullying.gov).

Make a Difference Through Service and Mentoring

Strong communities do not happen by accident. They grow when residents share their time, knowledge, abilities, and concern for one another.

Two October observances provide an opportunity to put this idea into action. Make a Difference Day, observed Saturday, October 24, 2026, encourages volunteers of all ages to work together to address community needs. National Mentoring Day, an international observance held on October 27, recognizes the positive influence of mentors and mentoring relationships.

Community vitality means more than economic growth. It includes strong relationships, local leadership, welcoming public spaces, active organizations, and residents who believe they can help shape their community's future.

Service and mentoring strengthen these connections. They help residents get to know one another, develop new leaders, share skills, and build confidence in the community's ability to address challenges.

Making a difference does not require starting a large project. Consider one of these practical actions:

- Volunteer with a school, library, food pantry, or community organization.
- Help clean a park, playground, roadside, or neighborhood gathering place.
- Check on a neighbor who may need help with transportation, yardwork or errands.
- Ask a local organization what it needs before collecting or donating materials.
- Invite someone new to attend a community activity.

- Share skills such as gardening, cooking, budgeting, technology or home maintenance.
- Support a locally led project and invite someone to participate with you.
- Thank volunteers who regularly serve the community.
- Attend a public meeting or community conversation.
- Help an organization welcome and involve new volunteers.

Mentoring is another way to invest in a community. A mentor does not need to be an expert or have all the answers. Good mentors listen, ask thoughtful questions, share appropriate experiences, encourage progress, and help others recognize their own abilities.

Mentoring can take place through youth programs, workplaces, agriculture organizations, schools, civic groups, volunteer activities, and informal relationships. A mentor might help a young person complete a project, welcome a new employee, encourage an emerging community leader, or help someone learn a new skill.

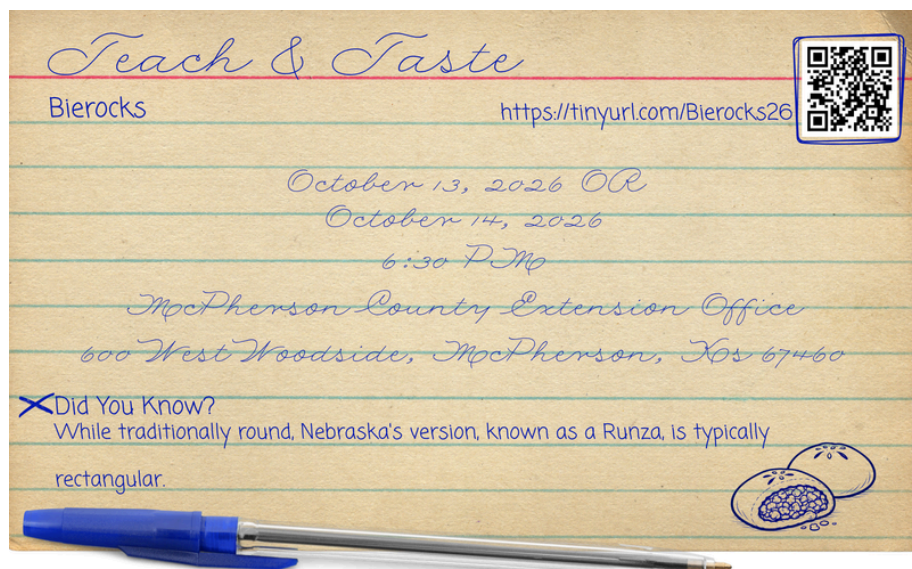
People can also strengthen mentoring relationships by recognizing those who have supported them. Consider calling, writing, or thanking someone whose guidance made a difference in your life.

This October, ask yourself three questions:

1. What is one need I see in my community?
2. What time, knowledge, ability, or connections can I contribute?
3. Who could I invite to participate with me?

One service project will not solve every community challenge, but it can build relationships, trust, and momentum. One mentoring conversation may help someone develop the confidence to take a new step.

When residents invest in people and places, individual actions become part of a stronger, more connected and more resilient community.



This Class Is Hands-On & Free!

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension
McPherson County
Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and
Cooperative Extension Service K-State Extension is an
equal opportunity provider and employer.



- Groundcovers for Kansas--Covering Your Bases:

Wednesday, October 7, 2026 at noon to 1 p.m.

- Houseplant Propagation Care:

Wednesday, November 4, 2026 at noon to 1 p.m.



Wednesday, October 14, 2026 at noon to 1 p.m.

An Important Update About the McPherson County Extension Newsletter Helping You Stay Connected to Extension Information

McPherson County Extension is committed to providing residents with timely, practical, and research-based information. For many years, the printed McPherson County Extension newsletter has been one way we have shared educational articles, program announcements, and local updates.

The newsletter is currently printed and mailed 10 times each year. As printing and postage costs continue to rise, mailing the newsletter to a large list has become increasingly difficult to sustain, particularly when we do not have a reliable way to determine how many mailed copies are being read or are still wanted.

In the coming months, we will develop a process that allows residents to indicate how they would like to continue receiving Extension information. A printed option will remain available for people who do not have another practical way to receive updates and who need to continue receiving information by mail. Details about how to opt in to the printed mailing will be shared before changes are made.

We also offer several electronic communication options that allow residents to select information based on their interests: 4-H News provides information for current 4-H members, families, volunteers and families interested in learning more about 4-H.

Agriculture & Natural Resources updates share timely information for agricultural producers, landowners, and others interested in crops, livestock, natural resources, and related educational opportunities.

County Connection includes Family and Community Wellness information, Community Vitality resources, Extension programs, and upcoming events from across McPherson County.

Additional updates are shared through our website, Facebook page, and other program communication channels.

Electronic communication helps reduce printing and postage costs while allowing us to share timely updates, registration information, and educational resources. It also gives readers the opportunity to choose the information that is most useful to them.

This transition is not about reducing access to Extension. It is about using limited resources responsibly while maintaining options for residents who rely on printed information. We recognize that not everyone has dependable internet access or is comfortable using electronic communication, and those needs will be considered as the opt-in process is developed.

Please watch future newsletters for information about how to select your preferred communication method. We appreciate your readership, your participation in Extension programs, and your understanding as we work to keep McPherson County connected to K-State Extension.

To schedule time with Chuck
follow the link below or scan
the QR code.

<https://calendly.com/claughlin-ksu/meeting-with-chuck>



Sign up for our newsletter to stay informed about upcoming events, calendar updates, and exciting webinars happening in your area. See a selection of upcoming grants, discover senior and military discounts, access important county resource phone numbers, and never miss out on local happenings. If you don't see your event listed, use the link provided to add it to the county-wide calendar. Stay engaged and connected—subscribe today! To add events to the community calendar visit: <https://tinyurl.com/MCAddEvent>





Extension
McPherson County

Kansas State University Extension
McPherson County
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McPherson, KS 67460

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

AGENT CONTACT INFORMATION

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Radio Every Monday:
7:40 AM-96.7 FM KMPK
7:40 AM-98.9 FM KMCP
7:40 AM-95.5 FM KLBG
Ad Astra Radio Station

Laura Savage
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