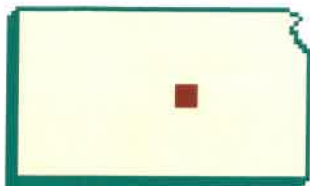


# McPherson County



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

## SEPTEMBER 2021



## Clover Corner

**Lindsey Muetting**  
**County Extension Agent**  
**4-H Youth Development**



Believe it or not, it is time to be looking at those record books, encouraging friends to try out 4-H and start looking towards a new year of goals! September brings the last month of the current 4-H year, but exciting things are ahead for 2021-2022! Please review the newsletter information and let me know what questions you may have. I am happy to help you as you complete record books or make goals for the new project year! As always, we would love to increase the number of volunteers and project leaders that are available to our youth! Please let me know if you have an interest in a certain area or know of anyone in our communities that may have an interest in helping our 4-H youth learn and grow!

– Lindsey

### Calendar of Events

#### September

- 6 Labor Day, Office Closed
- 7 State Fair Items received in the Office (1-4 PM)
- 10-19 Kansas State Fair
- 17 Tickets available to start selling for Legion Family Night
- 21 Pick up State Fair Items at the Office
- 23 Leader Training/Kick-Off : 6:15- Office

#### October

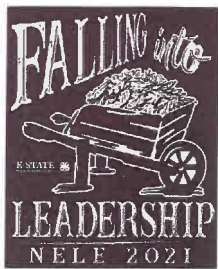
- 1 Record Books Due Into Office, Must Be Screened At Club Level First
- 1 Club Seal Due, Along with other Various Club Forms and Awards to Office
- 1 Ambassador Applications Due
- 1 Fairboard Applications Due

### New Year Leader Kick-Off

Please consider attending the New Year Kickoff and training for ALL volunteers and leaders on Thursday, September 23. We will meet at the Extension Office at 6:15 for dinner and brief information and then participate in the state wide program beginning at 7 PM. The evening should conclude by 8:30 and provide great information, learning and time to have discussions amongst our group locally. I would encourage any current leaders as well as parents and interested volunteers to attend! Please RSVP by calling the Extension Office or email Lindsey or Terra!

### Newsletter Deadline

Any information you would like included in the October edition of the 4-H Clover Corner needs to be emailed or given to Lindsey by September 20, 2021.



## NELE

Kansas 4-H is Falling into Leadership! 4-H members ages 12 to 18 are invited to the NE Area 4-H Leadership Event (NELE), Saturday, October 16, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Heritage Hall at Rocks Spring Ranch!

NELE is led by the Northeast Area youth council representatives.

Delegates can sign up for multiple classes. Adult sessions are also available.

Registration is \$30 which includes lunch, snack and t-shirt. Please register by September 27 at: <https://cvent.me/lzxY0g>

All McPherson County 4-H members and volunteers can attend this program with a \$20 Development Fund scholarship, making the total cost just \$10! If you are an adult interested in chaperoning this opportunity for our other members and helping with transportation, please reach out to Lindsey!

Don't miss this opportunity to meet new people, learn new leadership skills, and enjoy fun classes!

## Bring Your 4-H Projects to Life!

The Bring Your 4-H Projects to Life schedule will resume in October! Save the following dates:

October 14, 7 PM, TBD

November 11, 7 PM, Kinesiology

December 9, 7 PM, Personal Financial Planning

### BRING YOUR 4-H PROJECTS TO LIFE

A nonfiction novel connecting local 4-H projects, college, and careers



4-H Project

Each month we will focus on a different 4-H project. You may find a new passion.



Grow in Your Project Work

Each month you can enhance your learning activities with our favorite projects.



Connecting to College & Career Readiness

College professors, professionals in the field and others will share their experience, and help prepare you.



## End of the Year Financial Review

Please remember that each 4-H Club must complete a Financial Review due by November 1. Two youth and two adults are asked to serve on each club committee (These can not be or have relation to those listed as signers on the account). Information on this process has been sent to leaders and those we have listed as treasurers. If you have any questions or need assistance, please reach out to Lindsey!

## Legion Family Night

McPherson County 4-H will be the host organization of the October 21 American Legion Family Night. We are asked to sell 500 tickets (\$5 each) to the meal. Dine in and to-go boxes will be available. Each 4-H Family is expected to sell at least 6 tickets to the event. Tickets will be available at the Extension Office to pick-up starting September 17. Be thinking about ways that you can market these tickets. Family, friends, teachers, businesses, social media, etc are all possibilities! National 4-H week will also be a great time to share with others about your 4-H experiences and ask for their support in our community fundraiser! Watch your email for more information on ticket sales, dessert donations and helpers for the evening event (4:30-7:30 shirts needed!) This is a great way to get the 4-H name out into the community, earn funds and have a great meal together as members and supporters!

## 4-H Council

The next 4-H Council meeting will be Thursday, October 7 at 7 PM. One agenda item will be Officer Elections for the new year! If you would like to hold an office please make sure you attend the meeting or let Lindsey know in advance! Please make sure you have representation from your club (two youth, two adult). If you currently hold an office be sure to plan to attend as to run this last meeting before the new officers take over!

## Achievement Banquet

We are working hard to plan this annual event to celebrate the year and all of your achievements! Save the date of November 7 and look for more information soon on this end of the year celebration!

## Fairboard Members Needed

Are you interested in the fair, how decisions are made and what goes on during fair week? Then consider applying to be a member of the fairboard. There are several spots open for youth and adults. Please consider applying and help make the fair even better. You can find the application online [www.mcpherson.ksu.edu](http://www.mcpherson.ksu.edu) or at the Extension Office. Members do NOT need to be current 4-H parents or volunteers, just have an interest in being active in supporting the 4-H Fair! We do encourage at least one person affiliated with each club to apply for a fairboard position so we achieve a balanced group! Spread the word! Applications due October 1.

## Importance of Thank You's!

The Fair is complete and we are looking towards another 4-H year, but have all fair responsibilities been taken care of?! What about those Thank You notes?! Spending a few minutes to write a thank you note to your award sponsors, leaders and volunteers is a very important responsibility as a 4-H'er! A thank you list has been emailed to all families, contact Lindsey if you need this sent again. Plaque donor information will be available when you pick up your awards. Stay tuned for notification of those being ready!

## 484H

What is 484H?!? 48 Hours for 4-H'ers to serve our communities and make an impact on the state!

4-H is challenging club members, adult leaders and 4-H alumni to explore their service capabilities and inspire the community around them by taking part in some type of service project during the weekend of October 9-10.

### Countywide Service Opportunity BIRTHDAY KITS!

McPherson County 4-H Council is organizing a countywide service project for 48 hours of 4-H. We will all work together to provide Birthday Kits to food banks and other service agencies throughout McPherson

County. We need help from all of our clubs to collect supplies and deliver the final kits. Supplies needed include cake mixes, canned frosting, disposable cake pans, party plates & napkins, and packs of favors.



Think about ways you could collect these items within your club and community! Leaders will be receiving an email with specific information. Please plan to help make this collaborative service project a success!



### Officer Training and Family Event Tailgate Service Project Party

This annual event is set for September 23, location TBD. Watch your emails for more information. We will be needing session instructors for Officer Training as well as other class options. Youth, project groups and clubs will also be given the opportunity to host a service project booth!



## National 4-H Week

4-H...AWESOME! National 4-H Week is coming up, October 3-9. What will YOU do to celebrate? Maybe wear green for 4-H, hand out 4-H bookmarks, do a community service project or invite a friend to your 4-H meeting! Start thinking now of how you can show everyone how great 4-H is!

To celebrate National 4-H Week, think about entering the window display, video promo (NEW!) or poster contest! These are open to everyone. Contact Lindsey with questions or if you need space ideas.

### WAYS TO PROMOTE!!!

There will be three contests for National 4-H Week this year!

1. Clubs or groups can enter a Window Display promoting 4-H. Think of where these might be located... store fronts, school entry way or display case, libraries, etc. These do not HAVE to be in a store window! Displays can be located in any public space within the county. Remember to get permission! (The case at the McPherson County Courthouse is assigned to 4-H for the month of October. Please contact Lindsey if you would be willing to fill this case!)
2. Individual Poster Contest. 4-H members can create a standard size poster promoting 4-H. Posters can have any theme the entrant would like. These need to be hung in a public place for the week!
3. Video Promo Contest. NEW this year will be a video promo contest! All members, projects or clubs are invited to complete a short video promo for 4-H! This can be a basic recording or edited in any way you would like! 30 seconds to 3 minutes is the recommended time. Please email your video promo entry to Lindsey and share on any social media you can to help spread the word about 4-H!

All contests will be judged for top awards! Entries will need to have a short video (or picture for posters if you choose) that is posted to the McPherson County 4-H Facebook page or emailed to Lindsey. For the window display and poster- the video can be a simple phone capture, but should show the display/poster well and can include any other info you would like the judge to know. These videos must be under 2 minutes. Though it is recommended to have these items up for display by the start of 4-H week- entries must be in place with videos completed by October 5. Let us know what type of entry you have and where it is located when you email/post the video! Have fun and think outside the box... time to tell people how awesome 4-H is! Awards will be announced at Achievement Night!



It is that time of year.... **Record Book Time!!!** To conclude each 4-H year it is my hope that each 4-H member completes a record book. Remember, the project pages are NEW this year! This allows for another great skill to be practiced as well as the chance for scholarships, prizes, awards and recognition for the 4-H year. Please take a look at the record information and work on completing at least one record! Don't let lack of experience or information to include scare you away! Dive into the forms and as you are going make goals for how to grow and improve next year. It will get easier with each completed record!!!

### **What do I need for a completed Record Book?**

1. Personal Information Page
2. Kansas 4-H Project Report (s) - (one report per project)
3. Permanent Record

These forms will be turned into the office in a three ring notebook. You must complete the project record sheet for at least one project, though we encourage you to complete for all of your completed projects. Dividers will be helpful for the notebook with multiple projects in one book.

### **Where do I find these forms?**

All forms can be found online! [www.mcpherson.ksu.edu](http://www.mcpherson.ksu.edu) , 4-H Youth Development, Awards and Recognition. There are then links for Pin Applications, Record Books and Other Awards.

### **Which Project Report Form do I use?**

Project areas related to any animal need to use the Animal Project Report Form, ie Horse, Pets/cat, Dog, Poultry, Rabbits, Beef, Sheep, Swine, Meat Goat and Dairy. All other projects will use the General Project Report Form. Then just find your age! McPherson County forms will be age 7-9, 10-12 and 13-18. (Note: these ages differ from state, please follow the McPherson County age guidelines).

### **How do I complete the forms?**

It is recommended (especially for Intermediate and Seniors) that you type the forms, though hand written is acceptable. You must have the most current edition of Adobe Acrobat DC (FREE!) downloaded to your computer prior to beginning. Save each PDF form to your device and then you can edit, save and print as needed.

### **When are these forms due?**

All record books, pin applications, special award applications and club summaries are due to the office on October 1. Club leaders must review and sign books and forms prior to this date, so check with them for their deadline!

### **What is a Pin Application?**

Achievement Pins are a yearly goal of accomplishments and activities to complete. There are 9 achievement pins to take you through your 4-H career. Don't worry- if you haven't received any yet or feel ahead or behind- there is no such thing. We can all work at our pace and there are options for you- reach out to Lindsey! You will find the pin applications at the Awards and Recognition Website under Pin Applications. Make sure to read carefully and mark ALL possible accomplishments. Your club leader must also sign these prior to Oct 1.

### **The 4-H Permanent Record**

The 4-H Permanent Record is a complete compilation of a 4-H member's activities, both 4-H and non-4-H. This record grows with the 4-H member, as you add on to it year after year. An up to date Permanent Record can be helpful with many award and scholarship applications. This record is available as a fillable Microsoft Word document. Additional lines are available as needed.







# Ag News

**Shad Marston**  
**County Extension Agent**  
**Agriculture and Natural Resources**



## **“Silage Harvest: Think Safety”** **by Shad Marston**

One of the busiest, most fast paced operations that occur this time of year is silage harvest. Cutters and choppers in the fields, trucks racing from the field to the pile or bunker, multiple tractors pushing and packing silage. The speed at which we can harvest silage today is amazing, but we should never allow the speed at which we can accomplish a task to compromise safety. In the infamous words of Dr. Keith Bolsen “Every silage accident could have been prevented.” Listed below are a few things to consider during this year’s silage harvest.

- \* Don’t become complacent. Stay aware of the surroundings. Let’s face it, there are a lot of highly repetitive operations in putting up silage. One of the number one factors that lead up to an accident is almost always complacency or lack of situational awareness.
- \* Truck drivers should always slow down when approaching houses and intersections on all roads, every time. Those houses along the road belong to our neighbors and friends, some of which have children. The increased traffic on gravel roads creates dust and the crops are tall, both of which reduce visibility at intersections. Our neighbors should not fear going to their mailbox due to our silage trucks...
- \* People (especially children) should never be allowed near a drive over pile or bunker silo during filling. If people have to approach the area, get on the radio and inform the drivers/operators. Those on the ground in the area should always wear a bright colored orange safety vest.
- \* Never fill higher than the top of the bunker wall. This happens more than it should and creates a dangerous situation from the day the silage is packed until it is removed. The pack tractor cannot see the edge of the bunker well if at all. The silage does not get packed well (which leads to poor silage) and the edge of the silage is unstable and more likely to collapse. Don’t do it.
- \* Be aware of steep slopes. To reduce the risk of tractor roll-over, a minimum slope of 1 in 3 on the sides and end of piles should be maintained.
- \* Never inspect or make repairs to equipment near the bunker or pile. Equipment should be removed from the area as soon as possible. Repairs almost always involve people on foot and potentially people who may not be familiar with silage activities and the associated risks.



*Becker Brothers in Canton KS hosted a Plowing Bee that brought together 15 neighbors for this event.*

# September Garden Calendar

## Vegetables and Fruits

- ◆ Continue to harvest vegetables
- ◆ Pick apples and pears and store in a cool place to extend freshness
- ◆ Harvest pumpkins when flesh is completely orange and avoid carrying by stem
- ◆ Harvest winter squash when rind is hard enough to puncture with fingernail
- ◆ Plant lettuce, spinach, and radishes
- ◆ Remove weeds from garden plantings before going to seed
- ◆ Herbs can be dug from garden and placed in pots for indoor use this winter
- ◆ Remove small tomatoes from their vines to increase late development of more mature fruits

## Flowers

- ◆ Plant spring flowering bulbs, tulips, daffodils, and others
- ◆ Dig, divide, or plant peonies
- ◆ Divide perennials, especially spring bloomers
- ◆ Remove seedheads from perennials to prevent reseeding in the garden
- ◆ Plant chrysanthemums for fall color
- ◆ Dig gladiolus as foliage begins to yellow and air dry before storing for winter
- ◆ Clean up garden areas to reduce insects and disease as plants dieback for winter
- ◆ Enrich soil by adding organic matter such as peat moss or compost

## Lawns

- ◆ Plant or sod new bluegrass or tall fescue lawns
- ◆ Renovate bluegrass or tall fescue lawns by verticutting
- ◆ Core aerate cool season turf
- ◆ Fertilize cool season grasses with high nitrogen sources of fertilizer
- ◆ Mow turf at 2 to 3 inches and sharpen blade for a clean cut

## Trees and Shrubs

- ◆ Plant trees and shrubs, deciduous and evergreen
- ◆ Rake up fallen leaves and compost
- ◆ Prune broken and dead branches from trees
- ◆ Avoid pruning spring flowering shrubs such as lilac and forsythia to ensure spring flowers
- ◆ Hand pick bagworms to reduce problem in future

## Houseplants

- ◆ Bring plants in before temperatures drop into the fifties
- ◆ Clean and wash before moving indoors to reduce insects
- ◆ Poinsettias can be forced into Christmas bloom by starting dark treatment of short days

## Cool-season Grasses Need a Boost

K-State's Ward Upham said, "whether seeding a cool-season grass or not, they need to be fertilized in September." If you could only fertilize your cool-season grasses once per year, September would be the best time to do it. These grasses are entering their fall growth cycle as days shorten and temperatures moderate, especially at night. Cool-season grasses naturally thicken up in the fall by tillering (forming new shoots at the base of existing plants) and – for bluegrass – spreading by underground stems called rhizomes."

Upham recommends applying 1 to ½ pounds of fertilizer for 1,000 square feet. He said the settings recommended on most fertilizer bags usually result in about 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet.

K-State recommend a quick-release source of nitrogen at this time. Most fertilizers sold in garden centers and department stores contain either quick-release nitrogen or a mixture of quick- and slow-release. Lastly, fertilizing again in November will help the grass green up earlier next spring and provide nutrients the turf needs until summer.

# 22nd ANNUAL BEEF STOCKER FIELD DAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

## KSU Beef Stocker Unit Manhattan, Kansas

Come and help us celebrate the 22nd KSU Beef Stocker Field Day which will be hosted Thursday, September 30, at the KSU Beef Stocker Unit in Manhattan. The day will start at 9:30 a.m. with registration/coffee and conclude with a good old-fashioned Prairie Oyster Fry and Call Hall ice cream at 5:30 p.m. Watch for more details coming to [www.KSUbeef.org](http://www.KSUbeef.org). For more information, contact Dale Blasi ([dblasi@ksu.edu](mailto:dblasi@ksu.edu); 785-532-5427).

Why Should I attend?

The program will include the latest practical information to help you make the most of significant changes occurring in the beef industry. We'll offer management tips to help you optimize your stocker operation and provide greater flexibility in the future. Call Shad today to sign up and plan to ride with him to the Stocker unit on Sept 30.

The schedule is as follows:

9:30 am Registration/Coffee  
10:15 am Introductions  
10:30 am Results of the 2021 National Stocker Survey – Wes Ismael, Cattle Current, and Dale Blasi, K-State  
11:15 am What Has Worked for Us and What We See into the Future National Beef Stocker Award Recipients: • Mike Collinge, Hamilton, KS • Rich Porter, Reading, KS • Dave Steinbecker, Jr., Perryville, MO • John Paul Pendergrass, Charleston, AR Moderated by Wes Ismael, Cattle Current  
12:30 pm Barbecue Brisket Lunch – View posters  
1:15 pm Beef Cattle Outlook - Glynn Tonsor, K-State  
2:00 pm Can You Manage BRD and Coccidiosis Effectively with Receiving Rations for Backgrounding Stockers - Joe Dedrickson, Huvepharma Inc.  
3:00 pm Break  
3:30 pm A Novel Approach to Starting Newly Arrived Calves on Feed - John Richeson, West Texas A&M University 4:15 pm Comparison of Multiple Castration Methods in Stocker Cattle - AJ Tarpoff, K-State  
5:00 pm Cutting Bull's Lament 2021

The day will conclude with a good old-fashioned Prairie Oyster Fry and Call Hall ice cream. Pre-registration is \$25 and due by September 15. For complete details and registration, visit [www.KSUbeef.org](http://www.KSUbeef.org). For more information, contact Dale Blasi ([dblasi@ksu.edu](mailto:dblasi@ksu.edu); 785-532-5427) or Lois Schreiner ([lschrein@ksu.edu](mailto:lschrein@ksu.edu); 785-532-1267).

### **“Customer Service... More Important than Ever”**

Good customer service is essential to any business or organization. It does not matter if it is a restaurant or a tow truck service, having staff members that leave customers or anyone that encounters your business with that “wow that was great” feeling directly influences the bottom line. Customer service has become more important than ever as more consumers are purchasing goods and services without ever crossing the threshold of a traditional storefront. So how do we generate those feelings with someone on the phone or in a chat box. Let us start with the basics.

What is customer service? Customer service is simply defined as the assistance provided by a company to those that purchase the goods or services it provides. Now on to the tough part, how do we as a business or an organization provide that assistance? Susan Ward ([www.thebalancesmb.com](http://www.thebalancesmb.com)) offers a few simple things that business can do to improve its customer service experiences.

First, answer the phone. Potential customers want to talk to a person and don't want to leave a message.

Second, don't make promises you can't keep. As the old saying goes “say what you are going to do and do what you said you were going to”.

Third, listen. Simply listening to what a potential customer needs is important, there is nothing worse than listening to a sales pitch for something you don't want.

Fourth, be helpful even if you don't make the sale, today. The service provided today has the potential to turn into something much larger in the future.

Fifth, train your staff to go the extra mile by providing additional information about the product or other items commonly purchased with said goods. Lastly, empower your staff to offer something extra without asking permission, especially in those circumstances where the “customer is always right.”



# Kansas State in Top 10 Colleges

Kansas State University's College of Agriculture has again been recognized as a top 10 college by Niche.com in its Annual Best Colleges for Agricultural Sciences ranking.

Of the 142 agriculture colleges and programs Niche.com compared for their 2022 list, K-State ranks No. 7. The Niche.com ranking is based on an analysis of academic, admissions, financial and student life data collected by the U.S. Department of Education, plus millions of reviews from students and alumni.

"There are many great agricultural schools doing incredible research and engagement, while also doing a great job preparing students," said Ernie Minton, dean of the K-State College of Agriculture. "I'm proud that K-State again ranks among the top."

"In looking at the data and survey results they've collected, one thing that sets us apart is the quality and commitment of our faculty. Every year, the student and alumni surveys consistently put our faculty first in areas related to teaching and helping students be successful."

Scuylar Zenger, a K-State senior in food science and global food systems leadership, said the approachability and dedication of the faculty has had a significant impact on his time at K-State and ability to plan for his future.

"Dr. (Karen) Schmidt, my academic advisor and professor in food science, has helped me through so much during my time at Kansas State," Zenger said. "When I thought I wanted to go pre-med, she helped me plan four years of coursework to accomplish that goal. When I changed my mind about medical school, she was supportive and insightful in determining a new route of classes to help me build a career I would be satisfied with and thrive in. The faculty are focused on helping students."

Niche.com list of top 10 agriculture schools include:

- No. 1 Cornell University
- No. 2 Texas A&M University
- No. 3 University of Georgia
- No. 4 University of Florida
- No. 5 University of California – Davis
- No. 6 North Carolina State University
- No. 7 Kansas State University**
- No. 8 Oklahoma State University
- No. 9 Clemson University
- No. 10 University of Wisconsin



Niche.com's full listing of Best Colleges for Agricultural Sciences is [available online](#).

## **K-State tops rankings in six categories**

Comparing survey results of K-State students and alumni to survey results of students and alumni at the other top-10 rated ag schools, K-State College of Agriculture placed first in six of seven categories Niche.com measured.

K-State ranked first in:

- ^ Professors put a lot of effort into teaching.
- ^ Professors care about their students' success.
- ^ Professors are engaging and easy to understand.
- ^ Professors are approachable and helpful when needed.
- ^ It is easy to get into the classes they want.
- ^ Their workload is easy to manage.



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](mailto:Lmueting@ksu.edu)

**Shad Marston**  
**County Extension Agent**  
**Agriculture and Natural Resources**  
[smarston@ksu.edu](mailto:smarston@ksu.edu)  
Radio: Friday, 7:25 a.m.



K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provided and employer. K-State Research and Extension is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision or hearing disability, or a dietary restriction please contact Lindsey Mueting at 620.241.1523.