



## Horticulture Frost Free Dates

Calla Edwards – Horticulture Agent

April is here, and gardening season really starts to hit its stride. Between flowers blooming, planting in the garden, bees buzzing, and grass growing, things get going in April. An important milestone in our gardening calendar also happens in April; we hit our frost-free date for the spring. Depending on where you live in Butler County, the frost-free dates range anywhere from April 12th in Cassoday to April 19th in Rose Hill.

There is quite a bit of confusion about what frost-free dates truly mean. Many people think that once we have reached that date, we will not have a frost for the rest of the season. However, that is not the case.

A frost-free date is a measure of the chances that there will be a 32-degree temperature on or after that date. In El Dorado, our frost-free date is April 14th, so on that date, we have a 50/50 chance of having a frost, and every day after, the chances of having a frost drop till they reach zero. If you want to be safe and avoid having to cover your vegetables to protect them from the cold weather, wait till May 1st when there is less than a 10% chance of a frost.

Frost-free dates are a great tool to use when planning when to plant your vegetable garden but don't forget to use soil temperatures as the determining factor when you plant your warm-season vegetables to ensure they get the best start this spring. Happy Growing, everyone!!

## Family Consumer Sciences

### Get into Nature

Bonnie Brewer – FCS Extension Agent

Spring is nearly here, and the call to the wild is strong in my heart! My inner child longs to play in mud puddles, explore the flowers, and go on long walks. Trees are growing, plants are no longer dormant, there are insects everywhere, and other parts of the natural environment are starting to emerge! Did you know that being outside is not only great for physical activity, but also very valuable for our minds? Outdoor time is especially crucial for the development of a child's mind. Here are some reasons why:

- It promotes physical health – improving motor skills, lowering obesity rates and myopia risk
- Allows for vitamin D absorption (as well as absorption of other vitamins and minerals for better health and immunity)
- Promotes curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking
- Promotes better sleep
- Gives an opportunity to learn self-determination and self-efficacy, in turn building self-esteem
- Anchors children to the real world
- Promotes mental health

Going outside is its own reward. So put the screen down, tie on some sneakers, and get into nature!

## Agriculture

### Prescribed Burning – Know the Regulations!

Charlene Miller – Agriculture Agent/Extension Director

It is the time of year when we start planning for native pasture prescribed burning. Here are a few things you can do to help prepare and reduce the risk of unintended outcomes.

1) Know the Butler County Burn Regulations! You can find those at: <https://www.bucoks.com/203/Controlled-Burning>. You are required to make notifications and that contact information is found in this link. I also recommend notifying your neighbors.

2) The Kansas Smoke Management Plan goes into effect on April 1 – know the plan! [www.ksfire.org](http://www.ksfire.org)

3) Develop a burn plan; identify your goals, know the weather and wind forecast ([www.weather.gov/ict/fire](http://www.weather.gov/ict/fire)), review safety requirement, determine equipment and manpower needs and know your emergency contacts. Also be aware of roads and major highways and use caution not to lay smoke across them. Evaluate the ground to make sure it's solid enough to hold a pickup and sprayer. If the ground is not solid, think of what will happen when you put fire trucks on there if the fire should escape. Good planning is critical when planning and executing a controlled burn.

4) A great series of Burn Videos can be found at <https://www.kgic.org/prescribed-burning-video-series.cfm>

## 4-H & Youth Development

Madeline Wallace – 4-H & Youth Development Agent

National Volunteer Week is an annual event dedicated to honoring and recognizing the selfless contributions of volunteers across the country. This year, National Volunteer Week will take place from April 20th to 26th, 2025, celebrating the impact volunteers have on their communities and highlighting the importance of giving back. This week serves as an opportunity to show gratitude toward our 4-H volunteers and inspire others to get involved!

### Contact us:

Phone: (316) 321-9660

Web: [Butler.K-State.Edu](http://Butler.K-State.Edu)

Address: 206 N Griffith St, Ste. A, El Dorado, KS 67042

Facebook: [@ksrebutlerco](https://www.facebook.com/ksrebutlerco)

Twitter: [@ButlerExtension](https://twitter.com/ButlerExtension)

See our full Newsletter at <https://www.butler.k-state.edu/newsletter.html>

For KSRE publications and information, visit [www.ksre.ksu.edu](http://www.ksre.ksu.edu)

CELEBRATING **[25]** YEARS OF

# WALK KANSAS

AN 8-WEEK HEALTHY LIFESTYLE CHALLENGE!

March 30 - May 24, 2025

*Gather your team of six or go solo this year.*

Register online at [WalkKansas.org](http://WalkKansas.org) or by contacting your local K-State Research and Extension office.

**Registration open March 3!**

**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

Walk Kansas

Butler County  
Bonnie Brewer, Family & Consumer Science  
Extension Agent  
206 North Griffith, Suite A  
El Dorado, KS 67042  
316-321-9660



AT THE ANDOVER PUBLIC LIBRARY  
MONDAYS @ 1PM  
MARCH 31ST-MAY 19TH

The Andover Public Library is partnering with K-State Research and Extension to bring you a new program! Starting March 31st, we'll kick off the program by meeting up at the Andover Public Library and take a walk around Andover Central Park. On **March 31st** and **May 5th**, we'll have special educational sessions. This program is geared towards adults, but all ages are welcome to attend. There is no cost, and no registration required!

**At the end of the program, on May 19th, we will have an end of program celebration!**

K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means for communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, and American Sign Language) may be requested by contacting the event contact Bonnie Brewer four weeks prior to the start of the event [February 26th ] at (316) 321-9660 OR [bjbrewer@ksu.edu](mailto:bjbrewer@ksu.edu). Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request. **Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service** K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension



**ANDOVER  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY**



# WALK WITH EASE

**April 3rd - May 22nd**

*Every Thursday  
for 8 weeks*

**9:00-10:00 a.m. @ Douglass Senior Center**

124 W 4th St, Douglass, KS 67039

- Meeting at the Senior Center to walk around Douglass
- Gathering in the Senior Center for educational information:
  - Understand the many benefits of walking
  - Learn how to exercise safely and comfortably

**No Registration Required**



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 Bonnie Brewer - two weeks prior to the start of the event at 316-321-9660 or e-mail [bjbrewer@ksu.edu](mailto:bjbrewer@ksu.edu).

# ANNUAL BUTLER COUNTY *Lawn & Garden Show*

## GROW & BLOOM IN BUTLER



*Master Gardeners of Butler Co., KS*

# FREE *Admission*

- Children's activities
- Concessions
- Exhibits & vendors
- Plants for sale!
- Professional presentations
- Seed swap
- Soil test service available!
- The Plant Bus
- & More!

## DOOR PRIZES!

Event Details



Saturday, April 5th, 9 AM - 5 PM

Sunday, April 6th, 11 AM - 4 PM

Butler County Community/4-H Building

200 N. Griffith, El Dorado

K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means of communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, and American Sign Language) may be requested by contacting the event contact Calla Edwards two weeks prior to the start of the event March 22nd, 2025 at 316-321-9660 or callae@ksu.edu. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information, will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request. K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

Butler County

Join Us For Our 2025 Quarterly Extension Connection

# Mug Mingle



**Grab a mug and mingle with your local  
Butler County Extension Staff**

**Friday, April 11th from 7:45-9:00 a.m.**

**Save the dates: July 11th and October 19th**

# Coffee Mugs Now Available!

Get yours today at the K-State Research and Extension - Butler County Office  
206 North Griffith, Suite A  
El Dorado, KS 67042



**\$10.00 Each**

**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

Butler County

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



# Fitting Clinic

Butler County 4-H and the Butler Community College Livestock Judging Team are coming together to provide a Livestock Fitting Clinic. Hands on experience makes this a great learning opportunity.

You are welcome to bring a sack dinner to eat during the classroom presentation.



**Tuesday, April 15, 2025**

**6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

**Butler Community College  
Agriculture Complex  
2510 SW 20th, El Dorado, KS**



RSVP Here: <https://forms.gle/DdFEbwUpLgqoDEA28>



K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means of communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, and American Sign Language) may be requested by contacting the event contact Charlene Miller two weeks prior to the start of the event April 2, 2024 at 316-321-9660 or cmmiller1@ksu.edu. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information, will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request. Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer



# BUTLER COUNTY BLACK GOLD SPRING SHOW

May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Butler County Fairgrounds located at 200 N Griffith Street.  
El Dorado, KS, 67042

Follow us on Facebook!  
@BlackGoldShow

## Entry Details

- ❖ **ONLINE ENTRY ONLY – even day of the show! Pre-Entry NOT required but you will have to enter and pay on-line at the show.**
- ❖ Everyone must check-in at the registration table upon arrival to receive cards and finalize weights.
- ❖ Enter online starting March 1 @ <https://showman.app/shows#/black-gold-spring-show>
- ❖ Entry Fees: \$25 per head (No late Entry Fee)
- ❖ Showmanship: \$5/species – pay at the gate!!
  - Grand wins 60%
  - Res. Grand wins 40%
  - **NEW** - Banners for Champion and Reserve
- ❖ \$50 deposit for pen use. Deposit will be returned upon inspection at conclusion of show.
  - No pens allowed to be used without deposit.
- ❖ Butler County Youth - \$15/hd/species
  - Only 1 Butler County Class/species
- ❖ \$200 cash prize for Grand Champion Market and \$100 cash prize for Reserve Grand Champion Market.
- ❖ \$100 cash prize for Champion Breeding Doe and Ewe. \$50 cash prize for Reserve Grand Breeding Goat and Ewe
- ❖ Cash prizes for each class
- ❖ Banners for Grand and Reserve Grand Market and Breeding Animals.
- ❖ **NEW** – gift certificates to Supply Trailer for all (Dependent on Supply Trailer availability)

## Check-In Information

- ❖ Trailers may arrive beginning at Noon Saturday
- ❖ Registration opens at 6:00 a.m. Sunday
- ❖ Swine checked-in by 8:00 a.m. (Show at 9 :00 a.m.)
- ❖ Sheep & Goats checked-in by 10:30 a.m. (Sheep show 11am or 30 min after swine show. Goat show 15 min after completion of sheep show)

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Butler County Black Gold Committee, Butler County 4-H, Butler County Extension Council, and the Butler County Fair Board are not responsible for any accidents.
2. Open to all current 4-H/FFA members 18 years and younger as of January 1, 2025. Out of State exhibitors are welcome!
3. All males must be castrated.
4. All animals must be owned and shown by the exhibitor & free of clinical signs of infestations or contagious diseases, infections and sickness.
5. Only one animal per exhibitor in Butler County classes.
6. **NO** bedding allowed in the barns.
7. Show from your trailer. A \$50 deposit/pen will be required the day of the show if you wish to stall in the barn. The deposit will be returned upon inspection of the designated pen being cleaned.
8. Watch Facebook for updates.
9. Declare your own weight by respective registration close times.
10. The show committee reserves the right to resolve all questions not covered in the rules, request to see registration papers, a weigh back, etc. and their decision is final.
11. Full fit for show for anyone who wants to fit!

### PROSPECT SWINE

1. Prospect market animals may be either sex. Barrows and Gilts will show together.
2. Prospect market animals will show by breed but must have a minimum of 5 to make a breed class or will show as AOB.

### PROSPECT SHEEP & MEAT GOATS

1. **NEW** - Does and ewes must be less than 2 years of age.
2. Prospect market animals may be either sex. Must have milk teeth.
3. Exhibitors may brace animals, but all four feet must be on the ground. Show director has the right to disqualify any violators.
4. All market and breeding animals will be shown by weight. There will be no breed classes
5. Market may not be shown in breeding and vice versa

## Sponsored by:



**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 Charlene Miller two weeks prior to the start of the event (April 25th, 2025) at 316-321-9660, [cmmiller1@ksu.edu](mailto:cmmiller1@ksu.edu). Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so.

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