



NEWSLETTER



From the Director's Desk

From the arctic blast and frozen tundra to the sunny, 70 degrees days in less than a week, mother nature is sure showing us all facets of the weather! I grew up farming and ranching my entire life. I have been privileged to witness the best of the best and the worst of the worst when it comes to farming and ranching. This past week, the brutal cold challenged every single rancher who was caring for livestock and tending to the calves being born. If you weren't there to scoop the calves up within a short time, chances of them surviving were pretty slim. My social media sites were full of pictures of baby calves in pickups, houses and barns. Ranchers, neighbors, friends and the older youth out of school due to school being closed could be found diving in and helping each other out. Last week, while brutally hard, was good for the heart and soul of those witnessing the hard work, dedication, commitment and perseverance of those who worked at hours of the day and night to keep livestock alive. Why, because it's what we do.

It's What We Do! It's why I am proud to live in the heartland of Kansas. It's not just farmers and the ranchers who go above and beyond. It is our community, our county, our State. There are no limits and no shortage if you look around and see people helping each other out. There is a lot of uncertainty in our world right now and it can seem pretty scary. Despite the uncertainty, there is still so much good taking place. I challenge you to stop and take a look at what's around you. When tragedy happens, know matter what the situation, there are so many people helping each other out. No matter where we stand on a certain issue, as neighbors, friends and communities we unite.

If you ever get to feeling down with the situations at hand, stop and take a look around. All the good that can be seen will put a smile on your face. Take a moment and thank a farmer and rancher, thank a neighbor for scooping your snow, thank someone who held the door for you, just say Thank You!

Thank you for making this community and this county a great place to live! Spring will be here soon and warmer days are coming!

• Charlene

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Upcoming Events

 <h1 style="font-family: cursive;">March</h1> 						
					① 4-H Jr. Swine Producer Day - Manhattan 4-H/FFA Beef Weigh-In Rose Hill Library - Seed Starting Class 10 a.m.	
② 4-H Day	③	④ Extension Council Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.	⑤ Garden Hour 12 p.m.	⑥	⑦ K-State's Cattlemen's Day	⑧
⑨ 	⑩	⑪ Youth Lawn Mowing Clinic 5 p.m. Bradford Library - Kids STEM 4 p.m.	⑫ Living Well Wednesday 12 p.m.	⑬ 4-H/FFA YQCA	⑭	⑮
⑯	⑰ <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	⑱	⑳ 4-H State Horse Judging Contest - Equifest	㉑	㉒ 4-H Super Saturday Judging Event - Colby 4-H Jr. Meat Goat Producer Day - Manhattan	
㉓	㉔	㉕	㉖ Kokedama Class 6 p.m.	㉗	㉘	㉙
㉚ Walk KS Begins Regional 4-H Day	㉛ Walk Andover - Andover Library 1 p.m.					

Butler County Extension Office
 206 North Griffith
 Suite A
 El Dorado, Kansas 67042
 (316)321-9660

Hours

Monday - Thursday
 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday
 7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

 <h1 style="font-family: cursive;">April</h1> 						
		① Extension Council Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.	② Garden Hour 12 p.m.	③ Walk with Ease - Douglass Sr. Center 9 a.m.	④	⑤ Lawn & Garden Show 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
⑥ Lawn & Garden Show 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	⑦ Walk Andover - Andover Library 1 p.m.	⑧ Walk Andover - Andover Library 1 p.m. 4-H Council	⑨ Living Well Wednesday 12 p.m. 4-H/FFA YQCA	⑩ Walk with Ease - Douglass Sr. Center 9 a.m.	⑪ Mug Mingle 7:45-9:00 a.m.	⑫
⑬	⑭ Walk Andover - Andover Library 1 p.m.	⑮ Bradford Library - Kids STEM Seed Planting 4 p.m.	⑯	⑰ Walk with Ease - Douglass Sr. Center 9 a.m.	⑱	
⑳ <i>Happy Easter</i>	㉑ Walk Andover - Andover Library 1 p.m. 4-H/FFA Small Animal Tagging 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.	㉒ <i>Earth Day</i>	㉓	㉔ Walk with Ease - Douglass Sr. Center 9 a.m.	㉕	㉖
㉗	㉘ Walk Andover - Andover Library 1 p.m.	㉙	㉚	㉛	㉜	㉝

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

Upcoming Events



#KSTATEGARDENHOUR

K-STATE GARDEN HOUR

Establishing a Native Prairie Stand at Home Wednesday, March 5th 12:00PM -1:00PM CST

Transform your land into a thriving prairie habitat! Join Amy Keigher, Johnson County Natural Resources Extension Agent, as she guides you through the process of establishing a home prairie stand. Learn about the benefits of prairie landscapes, plant selection, and maintenance techniques to create a beautiful, sustainable ecosystem right at home.



Register Here!

Please register for this free Zoom Webinar at:
ksre-learn.com/KStateGardenHour



Pinchin' Pennies in the Kitchen

Wed. March 12th
12:10 - 1 PM CST



Ashley Svaty
KSRE Northwest
Area FCS Extension
Specialist

Janelle VanKooten
Kansas SNAP-Ed
Northwest Regional
Specialist

Food prices have risen 25% since 2020, making grocery shopping more expensive. This webinar will offer practical tips to save money, such as stocking your pantry, using unit pricing, and preparing homemade meals like casseroles, soups, and stir fry. It emphasizes simple, cost-effective strategies that can help reduce food expenses.



Scan the QR code or use
the link below to register:
bit.ly/3zvWWGQ

LIVING WELL
WEDNESDAY

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service
K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



YOUTH LAWN MOWING CLINIC

Tuesday, March 11, 2025
Butler Community Building
200 N. Griffith - El Dorado, KS
Registration Begins at 4:30 p.m. Clinic Will Be 5:00-8:00 p.m.
Pizza will be provided

You Will Learn:

- ✓ Lawn Mower Safety
- ✓ Lawn Mower Maintenance
- ✓ Proper Care for Various Types of Turfgrass
- ✓ Business Skills Necessary to Run Your Own Lawn Mowing Business

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

CLINIC COST IS \$10

This clinic is designed for youth in 5th through 9th grade

REGISTER NOW

☎ 316-321-9660
✉ callae@ksu.edu



Butler County



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. Language access requests and 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 Calla Edwards four weeks prior to the start of the event (February 28, 2025 at 316-321-9660 or callaed@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.

Seed Swap

Join Calla and the Master Gardeners for a fun and free Seed Swap! Bring your extra seeds and trade for new varieties. Connect with fellow gardeners, share tips, and grow something new!

Thursday, March 13
5:30-7 PM, Art Gallery



Garden Hour Webinars:

These class are offered online via Zoom at Noon. For more information on the Garden Hour series or to register visit here:
<https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/consumer-horticulture/garden-hour/>

Upcoming Events



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.



WALK AND OVER

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!

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Money Habitudes

Wed. April 9th
12:10 - 1 PM CST



Joy Miller
KSRE Extension Agent,
Johnson County



Elizabeth Brunscheen-Cartagena
KSRE Extension Agent
Sedgwick County

A Habitude combines habits and attitudes, reflecting ingrained thoughts, feelings, and behaviors that influence decisions and actions – regarding money, in this case. Six Money Habitudes will be explored, which can help individuals, couples, or families build self-awareness and understanding about their financial perspectives.



Scan the QR code or use the link below to register:
bit.ly/3zvWWGQ

LIVING WELL WEDNESDAY

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service
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Kokedama Class

Join us for a fun evening learning the art behind the Japanese Kokedama. The experts from Simple Morea will be teaching you how to make your very own Sansevieria Kokedama to take home. The cost of this class is \$45 and pre-registration with payment is required. To register please visit this link: <https://forms.gle/Lc17WbFPh9jz2hHXA>, email Calla at callae@ksu.edu, or call 316-321-9660

Wednesday, March 26th, 2025
6:00 p.m.
Butler Community Building
200 N. Griffith - El Dorado, KS



Simple Morea



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Upcoming Events



Methods to Increasing Vegetable Yield

Wednesday, April 2nd 12:00PM -1:00PM CST

Maximize your garden's productivity! Join Abbey Draut, Sedgwick County Food Crops Horticulture Agent, as she shares proven methods for increasing vegetable yields. Learn how to optimize soil health, select high-performing varieties, and implement effective care techniques to boost your harvest. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced gardener, these practical tips will help you grow more food in your garden this season.



Register Here!

Please register for this free Zoom Webinar at:
ksre-learn.com/KStateGardenHour



The Strong Couples Project

- ✓ **Participate in a 6-session online program** scientifically shown to strengthen relationships
- ✓ **Video calls with trained coach** to help maximize program impact
- ✓ **No cost to enroll** and chance to win \$25 Amazon gift card for completing program surveys

To learn more and enroll, please visit go.illinois.edu/StrongCouples



Butler County H.E.A.L.

Health. Education. Action. Lifestyle.

EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO LIVE A HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE THROUGH EDUCATION AND ACTION

PROMOTING HOLISTIC HEALTH BY INCORPORATING RESEARCH BASED EDUCATION INTO PRACTICAL DAILY LIVING.

K-STATE Research and Extension | Butler County

south central mental health
HELPING TO SHAPE PROMISING FUTURES

206 N Griffith, Suite A
El Dorado, KS 67042
(316) 321-9660

221 King St, Andover, KS 67002
524 N Main St, El Dorado, KS 67042
2821 N Brookside Dr, Augusta, KS 67010
(316) 733-5047 ext 515 OR 528

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Living Well Wednesday Webinars:

Webinars will be offered the second Wednesday of each month, from 12:10-1 pm. There is no charge to participate, however, registration is required. All webinars will be recorded and posted below along with supporting resources.

Register for all webinars in this series here: <https://tinyurl.com/4hed9rfz>

Available Services

Bad Odor?

We have a breath of fresh air for you! K-State Research and Extension - Butler County offers Nilodor cotton balls to help eliminate the odor in your most desperate areas. Just 1 drop can neutralize the air in a 10'x10' room. Costing only \$0.10 per cotton ball, this is an extremely cost effective solution to your most smelly situations.



Soil Testing

Whether you are preparing your garden for spring planting or wanting to make sure your fields are ready to produce a bumper crop, we can help. Bring your soil into the K-State Research and Extension - Butler County Office today and we will ship it to K-State Soil Labs for testing. Each test comes with personal recommendations put together by our Agriculture and Horticulture Professionals. Cost will vary depending on tests requested.

For more information on Horticulture Soil Testing, visit our website here:

<https://www.butler.k-state.edu/horticulture/Soil%20Tests.html>

For more information on Agriculture Soil Testing, visit our website here: <https://www.butler.k-state.edu/agriculture/soiltest/untitled.html>



Ag Talk

Charlene Miller

Director/Agriculture Agent

cmmiller1@ksu.edu

<https://www.butler.k-state.edu/agriculture/>

2025 Kansas Training Information for Paraquat



Do all paraquat dichloride product labels require additional training?

All products with the new labeling with the active ingredient paraquat dichloride, such as Gramoxone, Firestorm, Helmquat, and Parazone, will require additional training in order to apply these products. Remember if the new training requirement is listed on the label of the product you are using, then you **MUST** complete the training. All paraquat labels include a link to the training.

Who is required to take this training?

Any person intending to use paraquat must be a certified applicator and is required to take this training.

How often am I required to receive the training?

The training is required every three years. Check to make sure your training is current!

Do I need to be certified to use products containing paraquat dichloride?

These labeled products state that “Product may **ONLY** be mixed, loaded or applied by a certified applicator who has successfully completed the paraquat-specific training before use. Application “under direct supervision” of a certified applicator is **NO LONGER** allowed. In Kansas, this means that everyone purchasing and using these products has to either obtain a private applicator license (application to agricultural lands owned or operated by individuals) or a commercial applicator license (applicators applying to other people’s land for compensation). If you have been applying under someone else’s license in the past, you will need to get your own license before applying these products.

How can I complete the training requirements?

Now, two training options meet the requirements required by the EPA. One is housed on the eXtension website and can be found at: <http://usparaquattraining.com>. If you don’t currently have an account, you must create one before it allows you to take the training. For in-person training materials, please visit <https://npsec.us/paraquat>. Note that this training now costs \$25. The other option is to take the training provided by Syngenta Crop Protection, which can be found at <https://syngentaus.docebosaas.com/learn/signin>.

This information is made available by the K-State Pesticide Safety and IPM Program. Contact your local Extension Office if you need any additional information.

Ag Talk

K-State Crop Talk Webinar Series

The popular K-State Crop Talk online webinar series is back! The Crop Talk series will highlight several topics important to crop producers in north central and northwest Kansas. Topics include weed management, maximizing irrigation applications, leveraging precision ag tools, dryland tillage and rotations, and corn stunt. Continuing education credits will be offered, with one credit for each session.

Each webinar will begin at 12:00 pm (CST) and last until 1:00 pm. The first webinar occurred on February 11 and will continue every Tuesday until March 11.

Upon registration, participants will receive an email with instructions on how to attend via Zoom or YouTube. These virtual webinars are open to all, and there is no cost. Register online at <https://www.northwest.k-state.edu/events> or call your local extension office.

A complete list of the remaining webinars, with dates, topics, and speakers, is detailed below.

March 4 – Dryland Tillage and Rotations

Lucas Haag, K-State Northwest Area Agronomist

March 11 – A New Corn Disease: Corn Stunt

Anthony Zukoff, K-State Entomologist and Rodrigo Onofre, K-State Plant Pathologist

Broadcast Live
12:00pm - 1:00pm CST via ZOOM and YouTube

**CROPTalk**
Webinar Series

**K-STATE**
Research and Extension

Focused on crop production in Northwest and North Central Kansas

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-weight: bold; color: #4a4a8a;">February</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #4a4a8a; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;">11 Weed Management in the Age of New Technology Sarah Lancaster, <i>K-State Extension Weed Scientist</i></div> <div style="border: 1px solid #4a4a8a; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;">18 Getting the Most Out of Your Irrigation Water Jonathan Aguilar, <i>K-State Irrigation Engineer</i></div> <div style="border: 1px solid #4a4a8a; padding: 5px;">25 Leveraging Precision Ag Tools Deepak Joshi, <i>K-State Extension Precision Ag Specialist</i></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid #4a4a8a; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;">4 Dryland Tillage and Rotations Lucas Haag, <i>K-State NW Area Agronomist</i></div> <div style="border: 1px solid #4a4a8a; padding: 5px;">11 A New Corn Disease: Corn Stunt Anthony Zukoff, <i>K-State Entomologist</i> Rodrigo Onofre, <i>K-State Plant Pathologist</i> <hr/><i>Certified Crop Advisor (CCA)</i> Credits will be offered</div>
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For more information, contact Sandra L. Wick
Post Rock Extension District Crop Production Agent
swick@ksu.edu 785-282-6823 postrock.ksu.edu

register to attend at
www.northwest.ksu.edu/events
Links for joining will be sent after registration



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SCAN TO REGISTER

Ag Talk

Agricultural Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage elections with Farm Service Agency

Producers have until April 15, 2025, to make their farm program selections for crops to be harvested in 2025. Both Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) are offering higher price benchmarks this year, as historical prices setting these guarantees have been higher.

	Corn	Grain Sorghum	Soybeans	Wheat
PLC 2025 Reference Price	\$4.26	\$4.51	\$9.66	\$5.56
ARC 2025 Benchmark Price	\$5.03	\$5.30	\$12.17	\$6.72
86% of ARC Benchmark	\$4.33	\$4.56	\$10.47	\$5.78

PLC will make payments if the national Marketing Year Price (MYA) falls below these reference prices. Producers will receive a payment calculated as the difference between the reference price and the MYA, times their individual farm's established program yield with FSA, then paid on 85% of their base acres in that commodity. This program will pay on losses in price unless the MYA gets below loans rates established in the 2018 Farm Bill, which means large payments will occur if commodity prices are low.

ARC is a revenue program, which takes the benchmark price in the table above and multiplies it by the county's benchmark yield to establish a benchmark revenue for each crop. If the current year's revenue (national MYA price multiplied by the 2025 county yield) is less than 86% of this amount, there will be an ARC payment. That is why "86% of ARC Benchmark" is also included in the table, as these would be the MYA prices that would trigger an ARC payment if the county had an average yield. The advantage of this program is that it has both a yield and price component, which has produced ARC payments in recent years due to drought, even at high prices. The disadvantage is that the payment is capped at 10% of benchmark revenue, which tends to happen quite quickly if a payment is triggered. Like PLC, it also pays on 85% of the farm's base acres in each crop.

Remember the payments for the 2025 crop year will NOT be paid until October of 2026 once the 2025 county yields are determined and Marketing Year Average price is known, so a lot could happen to market prices between now and then. While ARC may be more likely to pay unless there is a bumper crop yield in the county, overall protection against low prices is less than PLC because of the 10% cap on payments. A great tool for assessing potential ARC-CO versus PLC payments at various MYA price levels and county yields is the ARC/PLC Tradeoff spreadsheet found here: <https://agmanager.info/ag-policy/2018-farm-bill/tradeoff-between-20252026-arc-and-plc>

Another factor in the decision to choose ARC or PLC for each crop is if a producer wants to elect the Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) on their individual crop insurance. If so, base acres in that commodity cannot be enrolled in ARC. For many counties, their benchmark yield for ARC is much higher or lower than their expected yield (provided by RMA). A much higher benchmark means ARC will trigger easily, a lower benchmark yield means that this is less likely. A new tool that also analyzes SCO in relation to ARC and PLC can be found here: <https://agmanager.info/crop-insurance/crop-insurance-papers-and-information/advanced-arc-plc-sco-tradeoff-tool>

The K-State Department of Agricultural Economics recently had a webinar on these topics, with more in-depth information and analysis. The recording is available here: <https://agmanager.info/events/2025-winter-wednesday-webinars>

Native Pasture Burning



If there's one value I find in social media, specifically Facebook memories, is the reminders of when disasters strike. Time seems to pass us by, and when my memories showed up of the Starbucks fire a reality check occurred when I realized it had been 2 years since that devastating event. Then just a year ago, we had a large fire in Northern Butler County that jumped the West Branch of the Walnut River, Hwy 77 and even the Kansas Turnpike with cars lined up and stopped. Then, in just the past few days, tragedy has struck Colorado, the Dakotas, and Nebraska, just to name a few. Sometimes, no matter how much we prepare, we cannot prevent or avoid Mother Nature's wrath.

Although we can't stop some disasters, there are things we can do to help mitigate man-made disasters. This time of year is Spring burning in the Flinthills. 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: <http://www.bucoks.com/index.aspx?nid=203>. 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
3. Develop a burn plan; identify your goals, know the weather and wind forecast (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. Due to recent rains, the ground is a bit soft. 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. Establish a burn crew and know what equipment is needed. A good rule of thumb is to have one to light the fire, one to drive the sprayer, one to run a nozzle and one to follow with small hand tools to make sure all the hot spots are out. Equipment such as a drip torch, swatters, rakes and a water supply.

Native Pasture Burning Cont.

5. Know why you are burning! Burning occurs due brush and weed control, conserving/maintaining the prairie, wildlife habitat manipulation, improvement of grazing distribution and increased livestock production are some of the more common reasons.
6. Know when to burn. This has been a hot topic of discussion, especially in the hunt for control of noxious weeds. If your goal is for weed and brush control, burns should be conducted late spring when the plants have started growing. Another rule of thumb is when there is 2 to 3 inches of new growth in the native grass. In most years, this will occur in this area from mid to late April. You will see some ranches starting the burn now to get new growth established for incoming stocker cattle.
7. Know what to do if the fire gets away. Even though a burn is carefully planned and conducted, prescribed burns can still escape. Reassess the situation to see if you have the necessary equipment and manpower to mitigate the problem. Know at what point you have reached your capabilities and when to call 9-1-1. Know what's downwind from you and if there are structures or people in danger.

As we round the corner into rangeland burning season, take time to develop and review your plan. Know what and how you're going to burn, know the current conditions, make sure you have the appropriate crew and equipment, and know when to call 9-1-1 should you need them.



Prepare for Wildfire Season

I don't know about you, but this time of year has me anxiously awaiting the warm days, green grass, blooming flowers, and budding trees of spring. Since late summer, Mother Nature has nourished these parched lands with plenty of moisture; I have to remind myself not to grumble about the rain and snow that continue to come down, because come this summer when it's hot and dry again, we will be wishing we had it!

Those late summer and early fall rains allowed a second growth of grass throughout the Flinthills, which resulted in significant regrowth and has left us with a high fire load going into spring; each year, Butler County experiences uncontrolled wildfires that threaten homes. Country living is a beautiful thing, until a wildfire is "running" towards your home threatening your property.

If you live in the country, here are a few tips from the Kansas Forest Service for you to help prepare and protect your property from an uncontrolled fire:

- Weed around the property regularly, especially areas that a lawn mower is not appropriate for.
- Remove leaf litter and other debris that accumulates around buildings, under vegetation, and in other collection areas.
- All trees within a 105 ft. radius should be pruned to a height of three times the height of surrounding vegetation (usually 6 to 10 feet), but do not remove more than one third of the live crown.
- Propane tanks, gasoline, and wood piles should be stored 30 ft. from structures. Keep a 10 ft. clearance around propane tanks.
- Mow the lawn regularly to keep grasses shorter than 4 inches tall around the home.
- All exterior vents should be covered with a nonflammable wire mesh 1/8 inch or smaller
- Remove all dead vegetation for a 105 ft radius. Especially prune any dead branches that overhang the roof or are within 15 feet of the chimney.
- If your property has no large year-round water source, consider working with neighbors or a home owner's association to install one.
- Maintain power line clearance. Have an arborist assist with existing trees that interfere with power lines. When planting new trees near power lines choose a species that has a mature height of less than 25 feet.
- Make sure your address is clearly visible from the road, especially in low visibility conditions.
- If you burn trash or use fire for vegetation management, consult local regulations and obtain proper training.
 - o Controlled Burns must be reported to the appropriate authority. County contact and burn information can be found at: <https://www.bucoks.com/256/Fire-Service>
- Develop a home emergency preparedness plan that includes: Clearly posted emergency phone numbers, designated escape routes and meeting places, maintained fire extinguishers, and functioning smoke alarms.
- Teach children fire safety. Remember, children learn by example!

More detailed information can be found at: https://www.wildlandfirersg.org/s/are-you-wildfire-ready?language=en_US

Remember, preparedness is the key to prevention.

Take a look at your property and do what you can to help protect it from fires!

Ag Talk

Charlene Miller

Director/Agriculture Agent

cmmiller1@ksu.edu

<https://www.butler.k-state.edu/agriculture/>

K-State Agricultural Economics presents

Finances and the Farm: An online class to enhance your farm management skills

An applied approach to developing and using farm financial statements for management decision-making for farmers and ranchers of all types

**This is a self-paced course you can take when
it is convenient for you!**

This course can be taken for education only or to fulfill FSA borrower's requirements.

Seven Lessons: Recordkeeping, Balance Sheet, Income Statement, Enterprise Budgets, Cash Flow, Goal Setting and Managing Family Living Expenses

Participants will:

- Understand the structure of a balance sheet, income statement, enterprise budgets, and cash flow
- Choose either Cattle & Crops or CSA & Farmers Market case farm to complete quizzes to check understanding and practice using these financial statements in a real-world setting
- Be prepared to use financial management techniques for their own operation
- Set goals for their operation

- Learn how to make changes to avoid financial difficulties

Registration Fee:

- \$300 for FSA credit class
- \$100 for education only



Approved for FSA Borrower's Training Credits in Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Wyoming

Taught by Robin Reid, K-State Extension Farm Economist, and LaVell Winsor, K-State Farm Analyst

Register online for FSA Credit or Education Only:
www.AgManager.info/Events

KANSAS STATE
Agricultural Economics

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



K-STATE
Research and Extension

Funding for this program was provided in 2017 by the North Central Extension Risk Management Education Center and the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture under Award Number 2017-20022-346094. Kansas State University 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, contact Robin Reid, (785) 532-0964 or Director of Affirmative Action, Kansas State University, (785) 532-4800. K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, Act of May 8 and June 30, 1914, as amended. Kansas State University, County Extension Council, Extension Districts, and United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating. L. Ernie Masten, Director.

K-State Agricultural Economics Presents: Risk Management on the Farm

Online, on-demand course to take when it is convenient for you.
Taught by Robin Reid, Extension Farm Economist, and LaVell Winsor, K-State Farm Analyst

Five Lessons: Determining Cost of Production, Crop Insurance, Crop Marketing, Farm Programs (ARC/PLC), and Beef Cow/Calf Risk Management

Register online by using the link below:

www.AgManager.info/Events

Course Description:

- Learn principles of determining cost of production, developing a marketing plan, evaluating crop insurance options, and participating in farm programs (ARC/PLC)
- Participants will work with a case farm to apply these topics to a real-world farming operation through hands-on activities.
- The goal of this class is to acquire risk management skills that can be applied directly to a farming operation.
- The bulk of the course focuses on risk management for row-crop farming operations but also includes principles for beef cow/calf operations.

Special Topics:

- Managing stress and being resilient in tough times
- Communicating effectively with family members

Registration Fees:

- \$100 education only

Other information:

- Have 6 months from registration to complete
- This course is a replica of the 5-part Risk Management Series delivered by KSRE in 28 locations across the state from January-February 2022 in which 340 producers participated in-person

KANSAS STATE
Agricultural Economics

K-STATE
Research and Extension

Find Your Balance

WITH BONNIE BREWER
FAMILY CONSUMER SCIENCES AGENT
K-STATE RESEARCH & EXTENSION



FAMILY LIFE - MENTAL WELLNESS - NUTRITION - RELATIONSHIPS - SELF-CARE

bjbrewer@ksu.edu

<https://www.butler.k-state.edu/fcs/>

Walk Kansas Celebrates 25 years



Tie your sneakers and get ready to celebrate! Walk Kansas is back, and celebrating its 25th anniversary! Each year about this time, I get very excited for this program as it rallies thousands of Kansans and their friends to have fun and improve their mental and physical health.

Walk Kansas is a team-based challenge that encourages people to walk, jog, run, bike, swim or move their body however they prefer, to live more healthfully. The program will kick off on March 30th and will run eight weeks through May 24th. Registration is available online at www.walkkansas.org beginning March 4th, and cost per person is \$10.

Sharolyn Jackson, K-State Research and Extension's state leader for the Walk Kansas program, shares that the program was founded on the principle that if teams of six people would meet the minimum guidelines for physical activity over eight weeks, they could collectively and virtually walk across the state of Kansas, which is 423 miles. The minimum guidelines are those recommended by the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention that individuals should aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity each week – or about 30 minutes a day, five days a week.

Find Your Balance

Walk Kansas Celebrates 25 years Cont.

Walk Kansas is an adaptable program where you can participate as a team or solo. You can choose between different challenges, and set personal goals for fruit, vegetable, and water consumption. Participants are also encouraged to add in some type of strength exercise. Throughout the program, tips, tricks, and instructions are shared each week with participants in a newsletter.

Holistically, Walk Kansas is a chronic disease prevention program, and a way to delay the onset of chronic disease. The reality is that two-thirds of chronic diseases can be prevented or delayed by the lifestyle changes demonstrated in the Walk Kansas program.

So, gather your team, tie on your sneakers, and register to start your journey to better health this March. Call our office at (316) 321-9660 for any questions you may have about community engaged program.



WALK KANSAS

March 30 - May 24, 2025

Walk with us toward a healthier tomorrow.

Registration opens March 3!

K-STATE
Research and Extension

Walk Kansas

walkkansas.org

Find Your Balance



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 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

Kansas State University Agriculture Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

Garden Gossip

Calla Edwards

Horticulture Agent

callae@ksu.edu

<https://www.butler.k-state.edu/horticulture/>

Spring Lawn Care

Spring is a time of warming temperatures, blooming flowers, and the smell of fresh-cut grass. On those warm days, it can be tough not to spend time in your yard watering, fertilizing, mowing, and watering again, and it brings up a question: Is all this work necessary right now? The answer is not at all!!!

Thou Shalt Not Fertilize Heavily

Using fertilizers in the spring is unnecessary and could be eliminated. Fertilizers, if misapplied, can run off down the road during those heavy spring rains and pollute streams, rivers, and other bodies of water. The only lawns that need fertilization will be on a regular watering schedule during the summer. Spring fertilizer applications can lead to fast shoot growth at your roots' expense, reducing drought tolerance. The best time to fertilize is in the fall before the grass goes dormant in the fall. One downside to not applying fertilizer in the spring is that crabgrass preventer is often mixed in with fertilizer, and it can be hard to find just plain crabgrass preventer. You can find it, but you may have to look harder. If your local garden center doesn't carry it, you could ask that they carry it in the future; not applying fertilizer will save you watering in the summer. If you can't find a crabgrass preventer without fertilizer, you should still apply it, but make it your only fertilizer application for late spring/early summer. For best crabgrass control, you need rain within a couple of days of application, or you will need to water the preventer into the soil.



Thou Shalt Not Water (Unless it is absolutely necessary)

Our yards will put out a big flush of growth in the spring so that you will mow, but that doesn't mean you need to water! Watering wouldn't have been necessary even if it was as dry as before the rain. Most soils still had enough water to support the grass. Another factor is that allowing your grass to dry in the spring is good for it. Being dry will help the grass tolerate drought and heat in the summer. Grit your teeth and leave the hose coiled up; you will do your lawn a favor by providing tough love. When you do need to water, the key is to water deeply and infrequently. Try to put down $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1" of water each time you water. Your soil should be moist down 6-8" from the surface. This type of watering encourages deep root systems, which help plants survive drought times. This type of watering also helps keep weeds at bay since the top layer dries, and weed seeds don't sprout.

Garden Gossip

Spring Lawn Care Cont.

Thou Shalt Not Scalp Your Lawn

I know it is very tempting to lower your lawn mower and remove all that dead material from your lawn, but don't. Scalping your lawn at any time sets your lawn back in several ways. First, it opens the canopy so light hits the weed seeds, and they germinate. (A bit counterproductive if you are trying to keep weeds out.) Low mowing also damages the growing points of the grass and can potentially cause harm if a late spring freeze comes along. Instead of mowing really short, only drop the mower one notch for the first mowing of the season. This will help remove some of that top unsightly layer. After that mowing, return your mower blades to the recommended height for your grass.



Thou Shalt Not be Annoyed by Lush Spring Growth

Spring is a time when the temperatures are conducive to growth in our lawns, and they will grow by leaps and bounds. Don't let it stress you out or get you down. Be sure your mower blades are sharp, and always follow the 1/3 rule. Never remove more than 1/3 of your grass leaf at any time, no matter what time of year. If you have a fescue or bluegrass yard, keep your mower blades set at 3" for most of your spring mowing. Don't let your spring mowing regimen become too complicated; keep it simple. Spring lawn care doesn't have to be complicated.

Don't forget that spring is the perfect time to spray for broadleaf weeds. A liquid or granular product will work; if using a liquid spray, ensure the sun is shining, and temperatures will be above 50 degrees for several hours after the herbicide is applied.

Garden Gossip

Spring Cleaning

We have some gorgeous weather on tap last week, and I know I will be itching to get out of the yard and ready my flower beds for spring. Even though taking advantage of those warm days is tempting, it's best to wait until the temperatures are consistently above 50 degrees before we start cleaning the flower beds. Hidden beneath all the leaves and vegetation from last fall are eggs, chrysalis, and cocoons of many beneficial insects just waiting for the warmer weather to hatch. In addition to the insects, many birds use the old vegetation left over last year for fibers to build this year's nests. If we remove the vegetation, burn it, or throw it away, we discard all those helpful bugs and nesting material for birds that could benefit us in the garden. The exceptions to the spring clean-up rule are iris and peony beds. If those beds weren't cleaned up in the fall (I'm guilty of this), they should be cleaned up now. This is because iris and peonies are prone to leaf spot diseases that overwinter on infected vegetation from last year. Removing the old foliage and discarding it now will reduce the possibility of diseases during this growing season. If you must take advantage of the warmer temperatures early in the winter to clean up flower beds, be sure to place the debris in your compost pile or in a corner of the yard with a branch on top to hold it down until temperatures are consistently warm before discarding to the landfill or city compost pile.



Cold Damage of Plants

Last month's cold temperatures may leave an impact that we likely won't see until plants start to green up this spring. Evergreens and other woody plants may suffer from winter burn, especially the parts of the plant that weren't covered by snow at the time of the cold temperatures. This damage is usually caused by a sudden drop in temperatures after a warm spell; however, it can also happen during cold, windy periods when the soil is frozen, and the plants can't take up the moisture to replace what is lost due to the weather. The best time to assess the extent of the damage and the potential for recovery is mid-May. By this time, new growth should have developed, and it will be apparent if the buds will put on some new growth. You can also check for potential recovery by pulling off a few buds. If they are brown inside, don't expect any new growth. If the buds are green inside, the plant may put on some new growth.

As plants start to leaf out in the spring, we will likely see die-back to the ground of plants that are marginally hardy for our area. These plants can include crapemyrtle, figs, butterfly bushes, hydrangeas, and mimosa plants. Other plants may be killed entirely depending on the snow cover for that location. Similar to winter burn, we likely won't know if the plants were killed back to the ground until they leaf out in the spring. Once you have assessed the damage to your plants, you can prune them back in late spring or early summer. Some of these plants may not bloom this year if they traditionally bloom on old wood but should bloom again the following year.

Garden Gossip

Calla Edwards

Horticulture Agent

callae@ksu.edu

<https://www.butler.k-state.edu/horticulture/>

March Gardening Calendar

Vegetables and Fruits

- If there are no soil test results, fertilize the garden with 1 to 2 pounds of 10-10-10 per 100 square feet.
- Plant:
 - Potatoes, peas, onions, lettuce, and other salad crops.
 - Asparagus, rhubarb, and strawberries.
 - Broccoli, cauliflower, and cabbage in late March.
- Start seeds inside for tomatoes, peppers, and other warm-season vegetables.
- Apply dormant oil to fruit plantings to reduce scale and mite insects.
- Make a fungicide application to control peach leaf curl.
- Finish pruning fruit trees, grapes, raspberries, and blackberries.
- Remove mulch from strawberries when growth begins.



Flowers

- Plant pansies, snapdragons, calendulas, and other cool-loving annuals.
- Clean up the perennial bed by cutting back foliage and removing the winter mulch layer. Divide and plant perennials in the garden.
- Plant new roses. Remove winter mulch from existing roses and prune.
- Cut ornamental grasses back to within 3 to 5 inches of the ground.
- Fertilize spring flowering bulbs such as tulips and daffodils.
- Cut seed pods from spent bulbs.
- Help control iris borers by destroying old foliage before new growth begins.
- Unwrap mail-order plants immediately and keep them cool and moist until planting.



Garden Gossip

March Gardening Calendar Cont.

Lawns

- Spot spray for dandelions, henbit, and chickweed.
- Apply crabgrass preventer in late March through mid-April for best results.
- Seed thin areas in tall fescue lawns.
- If no fall application of fertilizer was made, fertilize tall fescue.
- Mow grass ½ inch lower to remove winter debris. Do not scalp.



Trees and Shrubs

- Pruning:
 - Prune trees, except birch, maple, and walnut, which are best pruned after leafing out.
- Wait to prune spring flowering shrubs until after they bloom.
- Mulch tree and shrub plantings up to 4 inches deep, keeping mulch away from trunks.
- Fertilize trees and shrubs.
- Plant new trees in the landscape.
- Remove tree wraps from young trees for summer growth.
- Rake and clean groundcover plantings.

Miscellaneous

- Sharpen and repair garden tools.



Garden Gossip

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!
- & More!

DOOR
PRIZES!

Saturday, April 5th, 2025
Sunday, April 6th, 2025

Butler County Community/4-H Building
206 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 13th, 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.

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Butler County

4-H

Madeline Wallace

4-H Youth and Development Agent

mgwallac@ksu.edu

<https://www.butler.k-state.edu/4-h/>

A Minute with Madeline

St. Patrick's Day and 4-H: Finding the Luck in Community and Growth

March is here, and with it comes the much-celebrated St. Patrick's Day—a day filled with green, good fortune, and community spirit. While many think of shamrocks and leprechauns when they hear "St. Patrick's Day," there are surprising parallels between this holiday and the values 4-H instills in our members. At its heart, St. Patrick's Day is a celebration of community, growth, and tradition, which aligns beautifully with the mission and work of 4-H in Butler County.



The Clover Connection

St. Patrick's Day is often associated with the four-leaf clover, a symbol of luck and prosperity. This symbol resonates strongly with 4-H, which uses the four-leaf clover as its own emblem. Each leaf of the clover represents one of the 4-H pillars: **Head**, **Heart**, **Hands**, and **Health**. Just like the luck attributed to a four-leaf clover, 4-H members are fortunate to have the opportunity to develop these key values as they grow into responsible, caring leaders.

- **Head** represents learning and thinking, encouraging members to use their heads for problem-solving, leadership, and creativity.
- **Heart** is all about caring for others and developing kindness, empathy, and compassion in our community.
- **Hands** symbolizes the importance of service and helping others—whether it's through community service, teaching others, or engaging in hands-on learning.
- **Health** encourages maintaining a healthy lifestyle, both physically and mentally.

By embodying these four values, 4-H members are not only cultivating personal growth but also fostering positive change within Butler County and beyond.

St. Patrick's Day and 4-H: Finding the Luck in Community and Growth Cont.

Luck in Learning and Leadership

St. Patrick's Day celebrations often bring people together, from parades to family gatherings, highlighting the importance of community. In much the same way, 4-H encourages collaboration and leadership. Whether through 4-H clubs, community service projects, or county fairs, 4-H members learn that success isn't just about individual achievement—it's about supporting one another, working together, and celebrating shared accomplishments.

Through various 4-H projects, members gain valuable skills that help them in life. They learn the importance of teamwork, the value of giving back, and how to approach challenges with a positive, solutions-oriented mindset. These qualities align with the "luck" we associate with St. Patrick's Day—just as the Irish say that "luck is when preparation meets opportunity," 4-H members are preparing themselves for success by putting in the hard work and dedication needed to grow as individuals and as a community.

Community and Giving Back

One of the key elements of St. Patrick's Day is the spirit of generosity and good fortune shared with others. This connects directly to the 4-H commitment to service. Butler County 4-H members are continually involved in community service projects, whether it's working with our senior citizens, hosting food drives, or providing assistance to those in need. The act of giving back is not only rewarding—it helps cultivate a sense of belonging and gratitude, both of which are core values of 4-H.

Celebrate the Spirit of St. Patrick's Day with 4-H

This St. Patrick's Day, as you celebrate the traditions of Irish heritage, take a moment to reflect on how the values of community, growth, and tradition also live on in the Butler County 4-H program. Just like the four-leaf clover, 4-H brings together the best qualities of life—learning, caring, helping, and being healthy. We can all consider ourselves lucky to be a part of such a wonderful organization that fosters these values in our youth and our communities.

So, wear your green, celebrate with your community, and think about the ways in which 4-H is helping our youth grow and flourish—much like a lucky four-leaf clover in the field.

4-H

INSECT ART CONTEST 2025



By the Light of the Moon: Insects at Night

The K-State Research and Extension Pesticide Safety and IPM Program is hosting its annual insect-themed art contest, open to all ages and skill levels in Kansas. This year, the theme is *"By the Light of the Moon: Insects at Night."* The goal is to explore which insects are active or inactive at night and why, then create artwork that fits the contest theme.

AGE GROUPS

- Kindergarten - 2nd Grade
- 3rd Grade - 5th Grade
- 6th Grade - 8th Grade
- High School
- Adults

CATEGORIES

- Traditional Illustration (drawing or painting)
- Digital Artwork
- 3-D Creation (painting on canvas, collage, sculpture, or other media)

AWARDS

Certificates and prizes will be awarded for each art category in each age group for 1st through 3rd place.

HOW TO ENTER



Submit your entry by April 15, 2025. See full rules and details by visiting <https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/pesticides-ipm> or by scanning the QR code.

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Integrated Pest Management
and Pesticide Safety Education

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Butler
County

• SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

LESSON TOPICS!

- Farm to Plate
- STEM
- Financial Literacy
- Choose Health: Food, Fun, and Fitness
- Team Building and Bonding
- Robotics

K-12

**Don't see what
you're looking
for? Contact us to
see if we offer it!**

Madeline Wallace
4-H Youth Development
Agent
mgwallac@ksu.edu or 316-
321-9660

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