



# NEWSLETTER



## From the Director's Desk

Wade Boggs once said: "A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events and outcomes. It is a catalyst and it sparks extraordinary results." Our Extension Agents recently attended the K-State Research and Extension Annual Conference in Manhattan embracing the theme: Catalysts of Tomorrow: Pioneering Change. Educational sessions and associations were a piece of the puzzle where agents were able to grow their knowledge, exhibit leadership opportunities, and network with agents and specialists from across the State. Additionally, Willie the Wildcat and the K-State Marching Band made an appearance at the awards banquet and brought energy to the Conference and had many performed the Wabash! Energy and networking set the stage for the core of the conference which focused on a world café type approach discussing Next Gen K-State.

The goal for Next Gen K-State is: Kansas State University will lead the nation as a next-generation land-grant university – setting the standard for inspiring learning, creativity, discovery and engagement that positively impacts society and transforms lives in Kansas and around the world. A series of listening sessions were held across the State connecting with a wide array of audiences looking at ways to grow and help K-State reach this goal. Ideas and goals were shared at Annual Conference and Extension Agents had the opportunity to work through multiple round table discussions as they relate to key concern areas (HungryFree Kansas, Childcare, Water, Broadband, etc.) that were consistently noted across the State, along with having discussing as they pertain to Extension operations from the local to the University level. You can learn more about NextGen K-State by visiting their website: <https://www.k-state.edu/next-gen/>

Dr. Linton, President of Kansas State University challenged faculty to meet people where they are at now while forecasting where they're going to be in 10 years. Pause and think about that for a moment. ...Meet them where they're at now....forecast where they're going to be. Every one of us in our personal and professional lives can embrace that thought. We live in an ever-changing society. The minute something new comes out, a bigger and better of that product is already being developed. We are doing more with less. We are not producing anymore land. Water is an issue, populations are growing, technology is expanding by leaps and bounds...the list could go on. Challenge yourself and your business to think outside the box while providing for people where they are at now and working to still be able to meet them where they're at in the future.

Extension offers a broad array of programming and resources. Give our office a call if you have any programming thoughts, ideas or needs. Let us help you now and have conversations for moving forward in our ever-changing society. We want to help you be a catalyst that sparks extraordinary results.

~Charlene

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# Upcoming Events

## November

					① Christmas Tree Workshop 5 p.m.	②
③	④	⑤ Extension Council Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.	⑥ Garden Hour 12 p.m.	⑦	⑧ Christmas Tree Workshop 5 p.m.	⑨
⑩	⑪ VETERANS DAY CLOSED	⑫ Hypertension Awareness Program 11 a.m. - Douglass Bradford Library STEAM - El Dorado 4 p.m.	⑬ Living Well Wednesday 12 p.m.	⑭	⑮	⑯
⑰	⑱ 4-H Council Kidding & Lambing 101 Workshop 6 p.m.	⑲ Hypertension Awareness Program 11 a.m. - Douglass Crop Pest Management School - Beloit	⑳ 4-H Volunteer Training 6 p.m. Crop Pest Management School - Dighton	㉑	㉒ KSU Swine Day	㉓
㉔	㉕	㉖ Hypertension Awareness Program 11 a.m. - Douglass	㉗	㉘ Happy THANKSGIVING CLOSED	㉙ CLOSED	㉚

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.



## NOSTALGIC CHRISTMAS TREE WORKSHOP

K-STATE  
Research and Extension  
Butler County

K-STATE RESEARCH & EXTENSION  
Master Gardener

Paint, Wire, and Light-Up Your Very Own Nostalgic Christmas Tree!

\$60

Registration and Payment Due Prior to Start of Workshop.

- Glaze colors: White, Dark Green, or Pink
- Peg light colors; crystal (clear) or multi colored lights
- Topper colors: crystal or red
- ASK about other color options when you register!

Friday, November 1st & 8th  
Beginning at 5 p.m.

Butler County  
Community/4-H Building  
200 N. Griffith  
El Dorado, KS

For more information or to register, contact  
Calla at [callae@ksu.edu](mailto:callae@ksu.edu) or call 316-321-9660

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 Calla Edwards four weeks prior to the start of the event at 316-321-9660 or email@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 oral or written materials, are provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request. © State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



## December



①	②	③ Extension Council Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.	④ Garden Hour 12 p.m.	⑤	⑥	⑦
⑧	⑨	⑩	⑪ Living Well Wednesday 12 p.m.	⑫	⑬ Christmas Donation Drive Drop Off	⑭
⑮	⑯	⑰	⑱	⑲	⑳	㉑
㉒	㉓	㉔	㉕ Merry Christmas CLOSED	㉖	㉗	㉘
㉙	㉚	㉛				

# Upcoming Events



**Erin Martinez**  
PhD, KSRE Extension Specialist and Associate Professor, Adult Development and Aging

## FALL PROOF YOUR LIFE: A GUIDE TO BETTER BALANCE

Discover practical tips and exercises to improve your balance, reduce your risk of falls, and live a more independent and active life.

**Wed. November 13th, 12:10 - 1PM CST**



Scan the QR code or use the link below to register:  
[bit.ly/3zvWWGQ](https://bit.ly/3zvWWGQ)



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**Carol Ann Crouch**  
KSRE Extension Agent & Director, West Plains Extension District

## SIMPLIFY YOUR SPACE: A GUIDE TO DOWNSIZING + DECLUTTERING

Learn practical strategies for sorting through your belongings, making informed decisions about what to keep, and creating a more organized and peaceful living environment.

**Wed. December 11th, 12:10 - 1PM CST**



Scan the QR code or use the link below to register:  
[bit.ly/3zvWWGQ](https://bit.ly/3zvWWGQ)



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Butler County

Register now via the QR code!

Training for Screened and Approved 4-H Volunteers

## Understanding Youth SPARKS

Learn about the 4-H Thriving Model and how to develop youth's SPARKS to help them thrive!

Butler 4-H Community Building  
Wednesday, November 20th  
6:00 p.m.  
Snacks provided

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. (Minimum notice is two weeks prior to the start of the event. November 6, 2024 at 8pm: 785-282-6823 or 316-221-1600). Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of oral information will be provided. Fee 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 Crop Pest Management School

*Focused on weeds, diseases and insects found in central and western Kansas*

November 19

BELOIT

Beloit Methodist Church

November 20

DIGHTON

United Methodist Church

**\$50, if registered by November 11**  
After November 11, cost is \$75

**Continuing Education Credits:**  
For 1A Commercial Applicators, 7 hours and core hour  
For Certified Crop Advisors, 8 pest management credits  
*Have been applied for*

**Register online:**  
<https://www.wkrec.org/events/crop-pest-management-school.html>

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 Sandra L. Wick, Pest Rock Extension District, Crop Production Agent, 785-282-6823.  
Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service  
K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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### Garden Hour Webinars:

- November 6th - Rabbit, Mole, and Deer Mitigation
- December 4th - Home Hydroponics

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



MONDAY

NOV. 18TH

6:30 P.M.

## KIDDING AND LAMBING 101 WORKSHOP

### PREPARE FOR THE KIDDING & LAMBING SEASON

Join K-State Research & Extension Butler County & Cowley County along with 3 Varner Girls to learn the basics and help prepare you for the kidding and lambing season. Check-In will begin at 6:00 p.m. with the workshop beginning at 6:30 p.m.

#### REGISTER:

CALL 316-321-9660  
ONLINE  
<https://forms.sle/9fPMwrdXZsmHhTsq7>

#### LOCATION:

BUTLER COUNTY COMMUNITY/4-H BUILDING  
200 N GRIFFITH  
EL DORADO, KS 67042



Butler County



Cowley County



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Research and Extension

Hypertension Awareness and Prevention Program



## Hypertension Awareness and Prevention program (HAPp)

#### PROGRAM GOAL

Participating adults with hypertension (HTN) will learn how to lower and manage their blood pressure.

#### WHAT IS HAPp?

A 4 month self-monitoring blood pressure program that will provide participants with:

- A FREE blood pressure monitor.
- An opportunity to meet with a trained HAPp Coach twice a month to help take and track blood pressure.
- Monthly nutrition education workshops.
- Stress management and healthy lifestyle strategies.



#### WHY JOIN HAPp?

- Learn how to accurately monitor your blood pressure at home.
- Increase your knowledge about hypertension and healthy living.
- Become an advocate for your health.
- Access to community resources.
- Learn how to make connections between lifestyle and blood pressure readings.

#### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- ✓ Age 18 or older
- ✓ HTN diagnosis or on antihypertensive Rx
- ✓ Interest in and readiness for the program
- ✗ Significant cardiac event- last 6 months
- ✗ Atrial fibrillation or other arrhythmias
- ✗ Having or at risk for Lymphedema

Contact Your Local HAPp Coach!

**Bonnie Brewer**  
Family & Consumer Sciences Agent  
K-State Research & Extension  
Butler County  
[bjbrewer@ksu.edu](mailto:bjbrewer@ksu.edu)  
Phone: (316) 321-9660

Join Us!

#### Douglass Senior Center

124 W 4th St  
Douglass, KS 67039

All classes begin at 11 AM

- Tuesday, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>
- Tuesday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>
- Tuesday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>
- Tuesday, Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>
- Tuesday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>
- Tuesday, Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>

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, audiotape, and American Sign Language) may be requested by contacting the event contact, Elaine Johannes, two weeks prior to the start of the event at [ejohanne@ksu.edu](mailto:ejohanne@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.

**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.



Butler County



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

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

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## 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](http://go.illinois.edu/StrongCouples)



# OUTREACH



## 2024 CHRISTMAS DONATION DRIVE

*Drop off by December 13th*

K-State Research and Extension Butler County is partnering with Tri-County CASA to provide the abused and neglected children of Butler, Elk, and Greenwood Counties with a little joy this Christmas.

### We will be collecting New & Unwrapped Items:

- **Cuddle Kits**
  - One pillow case that can be used as a bag to gather their items
  - One soft and warm blanket to wrap up in
  - One stuffed animal to hold on to
  - One flashlight with batteries
- **Small Suitcases or Duffle Bags**
- **Nightlights**
- **Small Document Lockboxes**

All donations will be received  
until 11:30 a.m.

Friday, December 13th at the  
Butler County Extension Office  
206 N Griffith in El Dorado



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# Ag Talk

## Charlene Miller

Director/Agriculture Agent

[cmmiller1@ksu.edu](mailto:cmmiller1@ksu.edu)

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

## Know Your Hay Bale Feeders

The drought continues and winter will soon be upon us. Whether you are like some already having to feed hay due to the drought or you're gearing up for the winter months, it may be worth your time to take into consideration hay bale feeder designs and hay waste. Different types of hay bale feeders offer different amounts of waste. From research done by Oklahoma State University, modified



cone feeders show waste/loss around 5%, Conventional open bottom ring feeders 31% wastage, polyethylene pipe open bottom ring feeders 21% wastage and the sheeted bottom steel ring feeder 13% wastage. Let's take a quick look at the value back to the producer.

Let's assume hay costs \$120/ton and a 120 day feeding period. A cow will eat 30 lbs/day over 120 days = 1.8 tons of hay consumed. If you have a hay bale feeder that has 21% wastage, you will need 2.18 tons, whereas a hay bale feeder with 5% wastage you will need to feed 1.89 tons. That equates to a cost of \$261.20 with open bottom feeder with 21% waster and \$226.80 cost with a modified cone feed at 5% loss. That is a difference of \$34.80/cow or \$0.29/head/day.

# Ag Talk

**Charlene Miller**

Director/Agriculture Agent

[cmmiller1@ksu.edu](mailto:cmmiller1@ksu.edu)

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

## Fall Application of Anhydrous Ammonia

Some producers like the idea of applying anhydrous ammonia in the fall ahead of the following corn crop. However, several factors must be considered, including soil texture, temperature, and moisture. Currently, soil temperatures across Kansas are still above the recommended threshold when applying anhydrous ammonia. For updated information visit the [Agronomy eUpdate](#).

Soil moisture status must not be overlooked. When the soil is dry, will it be able to hold anhydrous ammonia? Learn what steps can be taken to minimize nitrogen loss after application by reading the latest [Agronomy eUpdate article](#).



# Ag Talk

## KSU Swine Day to be Hosted November 21

Registration is now open for KSU Swine Day, to be hosted at the K-State Alumni Center in Manhattan, Kansas, on Thursday, November 21. The trade show, with more than 30 exhibitors, will begin at 8 a.m., followed by a great program with updates on K-State Applied Swine Nutrition Research, and featuring a presentation from PJ Corns and Kyle Coble with JBS on “Creating Opportunities in a Large Production System.”

### The schedule is as follows:

- 8:00 am** Technology Trade Show  
*The trade show will conclude at 4 pm*
- 9:15 am** Welcome - Dr. Mike Day, K-State
- 9:30 am** Innovation Update - Dr. Marshall Stewart, K-State  
*Senior VP Executive Affairs and Chief of Staff*
- 9:45 am** Latest Update on K-State Applied Swine Nutrition Research
- 11:30 am** Lunch with Technology Trade Show
- 1:30 pm** Latest Update on K-State Applied Swine Nutrition Research
- 2:30 pm** Creating Opportunities in a Large Production System  
*Dr. Kyle Coble and PJ Corns, JBS Live Pork LLC*
- 3:15 pm** Question-and-Answer Session
- 3:30 pm** Reception with K-State Call Hall Ice Cream

Pre-registration is \$25 per participant and due by November 13. On-site registration is \$50 per participant. There is no charge for any students if they are pre-registered. The complete schedule and online registration information can be found at [KSUswine.org](https://ksuswine.org). For more information, contact Katie Smith ([katiesmith@ksu.edu](mailto:katiesmith@ksu.edu) or 785-532-1267).



KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
**SWINE DAY**  
THURSDAY,  
NOVEMBER 21, 2024  
K-STATE ALUMNI CENTER  
1720 Anderson Ave, Manhattan, KS



# Ag Talk

**Charlene Miller**

Director/Agriculture Agent

[cmmiller1@ksu.edu](mailto: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 Financial &  
Production Credits

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](http://www.AgManager.info/Events)

**KANSAS STATE**  
Agricultural Economics

**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

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## 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](http://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

# Just the FACS

**Bonnie Brewer**

Family & Consumer Sciences Agent

[bjbrewer@ksu.edu](mailto:bjbrewer@ksu.edu)

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



## ***Community Health Boosts Personal Health***

Most folks generally accept that maintaining good health includes an annual visit to the doctor to check their heart, teeth, ears, and more. Yet, there's more to personal health than some may realize.

According to research, over 50% of our overall health is related to the places that we live, learn, work, play, and pray. Being engaged in one's communities is connected to living longer and being healthier.

The National Conference on Citizenship, which has studied civic life for ten years, reports that communities with higher employment rates, stronger schools, and more responsive governments have better health among its residents. Civic health matters to our physical and mental health, and it reflects the opportunities people have to participate in their communities. These opportunities can be summed up in three areas:

- Places – Healthy communities have places where people can get together formally or informally, such as festivals in a city park; or a library with extended hours.
- Processes – Healthy communities make it easier for residents to have their voices heard. Some examples: Are voting processes easily understood? Do people know how to voice their support for new projects or changes in ordinances? Can people participate in local city or county meetings in-person and online?
- People – In healthy communities, people get involved as volunteers and in other roles. People are socially engaged and active.

So, as you schedule your annual wellness exams, take a moment to look at how you can become more engaged in your community. Look for opportunities to be civically engaged, be aware of opportunities to volunteer, become involved in clubs and organizations, vote, and contribute to local community improvement projects. All of these are a part of civic health, and participation in them is tied to how well and how long you will live.

# Just the FACS

## *Living Well Wednesday Webinar Series*

Living Well Wednesday is a virtual learning series hosted by K-State Research and Extension, Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) professionals from across the state of Kansas. The Fall 2024 series kicks off in October and we invite you to join us!

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: [bit.ly/3zvWWGQ](https://bit.ly/3zvWWGQ).

### 2024 Fall Series

**November 13, 2024**

#### ***Fall Proof Your Life: A Guide to Better Balance***

Speaker: Erin Martinez, PhD; KSRE Extension Specialist and Associate Professor, Adult Development and Aging

Discover practical tips and exercises to improve your balance, reduce your risk of falls, and live a more independent and active life.

**December 11, 2024**

#### ***Simplify Your Space: A Guide to Downsizing and Decluttering***

Speaker: Carol Ann Crouch, KSRE Extension Agent/Director, West Plains Extension District  
Learn practical strategies for sorting through your belongings, making informed decisions about what to keep, and creating a more organized and peaceful living environment.



The poster features a purple background with white and yellow text. At the top right, it includes the K-STATE Research and Extension logo and the LIVING WELL WEDNESDAY logo. The main title is 'SAVE THE DATE FOR LIVING WELL WEDNESDAY'S FALL 2024 LINE UP!' in large, bold, white letters. Below this, the schedule is listed: 'October 9th - Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate', 'November 13th - Fall Proof Your Life: A Guide to Better Balance', and 'December 11th - Simplifying Your Space: A Guide to Downsizing and Decluttering'. A dark purple box contains the time '12:10 - 1:00 CST'. At the bottom right, there is a QR code and a small text box with the registration link. The footer contains the K-State University logo and a QR code with registration instructions.

**K-STATE** Research and Extension **LIVING WELL WEDNESDAY**

**SAVE THE DATE FOR LIVING WELL WEDNESDAY'S FALL 2024 LINE UP!**

**October 9th - Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate**

**November 13th - Fall Proof Your Life: A Guide to Better Balance**

**December 11th - Simplifying Your Space: A Guide to Downsizing and Decluttering**

**12:10 - 1:00 CST**

Scan the QR code or use the link below to register:  
[bit.ly/3zvWWGQ](https://bit.ly/3zvWWGQ)

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# Garden Gossip

**Calla Edwards**

Horticulture Agent

[callae@ksu.edu](mailto:callae@ksu.edu)

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

## To Clean Up or Not to Clean Up?



As we approach our first frost date it's time to figure out which of your garden and flower beds you can clean up this fall and which ones you can leave till spring. It's ultimately a personal choice but let's take a look.

Flowerbeds are one of the areas where there are differing opinions on whether you should remove the plant debris or leave it for the beneficial insects. Removing your annual flowers from the garden is always recommended as they can harbor diseases or may reseed in areas you don't want them to. They also usually don't have the type of stems that beneficial insects can overwinter in. On perennial flowers, you can either remove the stalks or leave them in the garden. The exception is if you have disease issues then the plant debris should always be removed. I tend to leave my perennial plants standing over winter as a place for beneficial insects to overwinter. I tend to leave the stalks standing till the temperatures in the spring are consistently over 50 degrees so the good bugs can hatch for the spring. The other reason to leave your flower stalks on your perennials is that the leaves can protect the crown of the plant from extreme weather conditions and keep them alive for the winter.

It's important to always clean up your vegetable garden for the fall, especially if you have leaf spot diseases on tomatoes or other plants. One of the best ways to reduce the disease load in your soil is to remove the spores from plant debris in the garden. I also prefer to remove the plants from my vegetable garden in the fall to reduce the chances of insects such as squash bugs and other undesirable insects overwintering and causing issues in the spring.

# Garden Gossip

**Calla Edwards**

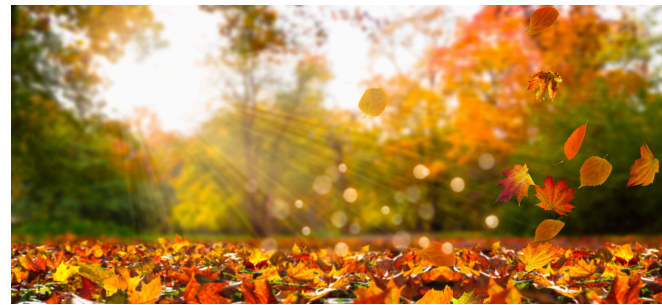
Horticulture Agent

[callae@ksu.edu](mailto:callae@ksu.edu)

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

## What to do with Fall Leaves?

There are many benefits to utilizing the leaves in your landscape however, too many can and will kill the lawn or desirable plants. Even if you don't have trees in your yard there will likely be some leaves that are blown in from your neighbors. Before the leaves fall is a good time to plan for what to do with them.



Falling leaves are an excellent source of organic matter to replenish nutrients in soil and improve the soil structure but in a lawn setting, they can quickly create a mat that will kill the grass underneath. One of the best ways to utilize leaves in your lawn is to use a method called mulch mowing. As you get a thin layer of leaves on top of your grass, one to two inches not 6-8" of leaves, mow your lawn with the bagger off. The mower will chop the leaves into small bits that can fall through the grass to land on the soil surface. These pieces will break down over the winter and add to the soil. You can tell you have been successful with mulch mowing when you look behind you and see mostly grass with a few leaves. If you see mostly leaves you probably waited too long. Should you have lots of trees in your yard this may have to be done multiple times a week when the leaves are falling the most.



Leaves are an excellent addition to any compost pile. For the best results, mulch the leaves so they are in smaller pieces before putting them in the compost pile as this allows them to break down faster. You can also add mulched leaves directly to the garden and either leave them on the surface or till them into the soil to break down for next year. Leaves can be an excellent mulch around perennials and other flowers in your flower beds. They help insulate the soil and keep the delicate crowns of tender plants protected from the freeze/thaw cycles we see in the spring.

If possible leave some leaves sitting for native pollinators and other beneficial insects to overwinter in. Many of our good bugs utilize leaves and standing plant material to survive till next spring. No matter how you use your leaves, make a plan on what to do with them so you can avoid sending them to the landfill this fall.

# Garden Gossip

**Calla Edwards**

Horticulture Agent

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## November Gardening Calendar

### Vegetables and Fruits

- Sort apples in storage and remove spoiled fruit
- Clean and remove fallen fruit from around trees to reduce insects and disease for next year
- Protect trunks of fruit trees from damage with tree wraps
- Take a soil test and make needed adjustments in the fall
- Till garden soil and add organic matter



### Flowers

- Clean the rose bed to reduce disease next season.
- Cut back tall rose canes to 24 inches to prevent winter breakage
- Remove frost-killed annuals
- Till annual flower beds and add organic matter to improve soil
- Continue planting spring flowering bulbs
- Depending on your gardening style, leave or cut back perennial stalks to 4 to 6 inches
- Apply a winter mulch to perennials and roses after several hard freezes

# Garden Gossip

## November Gardening Calendar Cont.

### Lawns

- Rake fallen leaves from the lawn to prevent winter suffocation
- Fertilize cool-season lawns, with a quick-release high-nitrogen fertilizer to promote root development and early spring green up
- If needed, water turf so it starts winter with ample moisture
- Control dandelions, henbit, and chickweed before spring green up
- Continue to mow into the fall at 2 to 3 inches



### Trees and Shrubs

- Water newly planted trees and shrubs
- Plant new trees and shrubs
- Rake leaves and place them in the compost pile
- Check mulch layers and replenish
- Prune dead or hazardous limbs
- Wait to prune spring flowering trees and shrubs until after bloom

### Miscellaneous

- Clean and oil garden tools, sprayers, and other equipment to store for winter
- Drain garden hoses and sprinklers then store them indoors for increased life
- If fuel is to remain in power equipment, add fuel stabilizer, otherwise drain gas
- Protect ornamental and fruit trees and young plants from rabbit damage by wrapping or enclosing them in wire screen
- Start a compost pile with fall leaves
- Turn compost pile to hasten breakdown
- Start planning for 2025



# 4-H

## Madeline Wallace

4-H Youth and Development Agent

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



As the leaves fall and the air turns crisp, November brings a special time of year to reflect on our blessings and the spirit of giving. In this season of gratitude, it's important to take a moment to acknowledge the heart and soul of our 4-H program: our incredible members and volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to helping our youth and program thrive. Here are just a few reasons why I am so thankful for each of you:

1. **Passion and Commitment:** Our members consistently demonstrate enthusiasm and dedication, whether it's through their projects, community service, or participation in events. Your eagerness to learn and grow is what makes 4-H such a vibrant and dynamic program.
2. **Leadership and Mentorship:** Our volunteers are the backbone of 4-H. They generously share their time and expertise, guiding our members and helping them develop essential life skills. Your mentorship shapes the next generation of leaders, instilling values of responsibility, teamwork, and community engagement.
3. **Community Spirit:** The sense of camaraderie and support among our 4-H families is truly inspiring. Together, we create an inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and empowered. This spirit of unity is vital to our success and enriches the lives of all involved.
4. **Innovative Ideas:** Our members bring fresh perspectives and creativity to the table. From new ideas for their projects to innovative approaches to community service, your contributions help us evolve and stay relevant in today's world.
5. **Positive Impact:** The work you do extends beyond 4-H. By participating in service projects and community outreach, you are making a lasting impact on those around you. Your efforts exemplify the true meaning of giving back and inspire others to do the same.

As we reflect on these reasons, let's carry this gratitude into our daily lives, remembering that together, we are creating a brighter future for ourselves and our communities. Thank you for being an essential part of the Butler County 4-H family!



# 4-H


## Madeline Wallace

4-H Youth and Development Agent

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

The new 4-H year began on October 1st, 2024! From hands-on exploration to project-based skill building, young people thrive through participation in 4-H and find their way to success in life and future careers. We are excited to offer over 35 projects, ranging from Foods and Nutrition, to Robotics and Geology, to Livestock. There truly is something for everyone! We focus on exploration, learning, and experiencing the world around us through hands-on activities lead by our qualified volunteers and mentors. Any Butler County youth ages 7 to 18 is eligible to join 4-H! Our learning pathways support 21st century learning skills to help our youth grow and develop into productive citizens within their community! I encourage you to visit our website: <https://www.butler.k-state.edu/4-h/> to learn how to enroll in 4-H!

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### 4-H Online Enrollment Opens October 1st!


**4-H's Long-reaching Effects**  
Compared to other youth, 4-Hers are:

- 4x** more likely to contribute to their communities
- 2x** more likely to be civically active
- 2x** more likely to make healthier lifestyle choices

**The Top 5 Project Areas in Butler County:**

1. Photography
2. Visual Arts
3. Foods & Nutrition
4. Clothing & Textiles
5. Floriculture & Horticulture

**Find more information here:**



**What does Butler County 4-H have to offer?**

- 9 Community 4-H Clubs across the County
- Butler County 4-H Shooting Sports
- Over 70 Projects
- Cloverbud Program for ages 5-6 yrs.

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

Call Us  
316-321-9660

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# 4-H

## 4-H Achievement Celebration Award Winners

*Congratulations*  
**TO THE 2024  
PRESTIGIOUS AWARD  
WINNERS**

<b>I Dare You</b> Mikalyn P. Jackson S.	<b>Dr. Johnson Outstanding 4-H'er</b> Kylee B.	<b>Kiwanis Jr. Leader</b> Brenna S.	<b>Service to 4-H &amp; Community</b> Cami M.
<b>Key Award</b> Kylee B.	<b>EW Nath Scholarship</b> Kyle P.	<b>BCC Scholarship</b> Cally M.	<b>Butler County Jr. Leader</b> Riley G.

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**2024  
COUNTY  
CHAMPION  
KAPS**

INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONS

- JULIA A. - BEEF
- MADELYNN I. - RABBITS

SENIOR CHAMPIONS

- CAMI M. - BEEF
- RILEY G. - DAIRY
- KYLEE B. - FIBER ARTS
- GRACE R. - SHOPPING IN STYLE

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~ 2024 ~

# KAP BLUE AWARD WINNERS

INTERMEDIATE

- ELLA A. - BEEF
- JACK M. - SWINE
- LUKE P. - BEEF
- VALERIE S. - VISUAL ARTS

SENIORS

- JADON G. - SHOOTING SPORTS
- CALLY M. - BEEF
- BRENNA S. - FOODS & NUTRITION
- JACKSON S. - DAIRY

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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!**

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4-H Youth Development  
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