



# NEWSLETTER



## From the Director's Desk

Happy New Year!

While I am writing in this in 2024, the New Year will be under way when this hits the press! It's that time of the year again where New Year's Resolutions are set! The first weeks and months of the New Year we all strive to be a better version of ourselves than we were in the year before. We focus on our overall health, finances, our family and set goals to challenge ourselves. Robert F. Kennedy once said, "Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly." If you don't meet your goal, it's okay to restart and keep working towards it.

As we all embark on the new year, we wish each and everyone of you a very Happy and Safe New Year! Make sure and follow along on our social media, sign up to receive our newsletters and reach out to us with any questions.

Newsletter Sign-Up <https://forms.gle/kwbRJxMYtfBt8SU77>

K-State Research and Extension - Butler County

<https://www.facebook.com/ksrebutlerco>

Butler Co 4-H <https://www.facebook.com/BuCo4H/> and

<https://www.instagram.com/butlerc4h/>

Master Gardener's <https://www.facebook.com/Butlercountymastergardeners>

Charlene Miller, Director/Agriculture Professional – [cmmiller1@ksu.edu](mailto:cmmiller1@ksu.edu)

Calla Edwards, Horticulture and Community Development Professional – [callae@ksu.edu](mailto:callae@ksu.edu)

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And our wonderful office support staff:

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Darla Deaton, Financial Secretary – [ddeaton@ksu.edu](mailto:ddeaton@ksu.edu)

~Charlene

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# Upcoming Events

January 2025						
			① HAPPY NEW YEAR! CLOSED	②	③	④
⑤	⑥	⑦ Extension Council Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.	⑧ Garden Hour 12 p.m.	⑨	⑩ Mug Mingle 7:45-9 a.m.	⑪
⑫	⑬	⑭ 4-H Council	⑮	⑯	⑰	⑱
⑲	⑳ MILK DAY CLOSED	㉑ Women in Agriculture 5-8 p.m.	㉒	㉓	㉔	㉕
㉖	㉗ 4-H/FFA YQCA	㉘ Women in Agriculture 5-8 p.m.	㉙	㉚	㉛	

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.

Join Us For Our 2025 Quarterly Extension Connection

## Mug Mingle



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

Friday, January 10th from 7:45-9:00 a.m.  
Save the dates: April 11th, July 11th, and October 19th

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

February						
						①
②	③	④ Extension Council Board Meeting 6:30 p.m. Women in Agriculture 5-8 p.m.	⑤ Garden Hour 12 p.m.	⑥	⑦	⑧ Rain Barrel Clinic - Andover Library 9:30 a.m.
⑨	⑩	⑪ Women in Agriculture 5-8 p.m. 4-H Council	⑫ Living Well Wednesday 12 p.m. Seed Starting Class - El Dorado Library 9:30 a.m.	⑬ Winter Greens & Winter Blues - Andover Library 6:00 p.m.	⑭	⑮
⑯	⑰ HAPPY Presidents Day CLOSED	⑱ 4-H/FFA YQCA	⑲	⑳	㉑	㉒ Rain Barrel Clinic - El Dorado 9:00 a.m. 4-H/FFA Beef Weigh-In
㉓	㉔	㉕	㉖	㉗	㉘	

# Upcoming Events

## WINTER GREENS AND WINTER BLUES

Thursday, February 13, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Andover Public Library

1511 E Central Ave, Andover, KS 67002



The long winter months are upon us. Longer hours of darkness coupled with the colder temperatures can bring feelings of "winter blues."

Join in an interactive program with Bonnie Brewer and Calla Edwards as they share tips to prevent those winter blues from sneaking up on us to maintain positive mental health.

Together we will explore house plants, breathing techniques and so much more!

Email  
[friendsandoverlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsandoverlibrary@gmail.com)  
to register!



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, Bonnie Brewer four weeks prior to the start of the event 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.  
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## 2025 New Year Launch

First Wednesday of the Month

12:00 PM- 1:00 PM CST

January 8th\*- Sowing Success: Research-Based Gardening for Beginners *\*(second Wednesday)*

February 5th- Maximizing Water Efficiency Through Drip Irrigation

March 5th- Establishing a Native Prairie Stand at Home

The K-State Garden Hour is a free webinar series hosted by K-State Research and Extension horticulture staff across the state. We hope you'll join us on the first Wednesday of each month as we discuss new and relevant gardening topics. The presentations will be given live from Noon to 1:00 pm CST with a 45-minute presentation and 10-15 minutes for questions and answers. Sessions will be recorded and posted to the website after each event. Your one-time registration will allow you to participate live in any of the featured presentations within the 2025 K-State Garden Hour series.

**\*January Webinar postponed one week, until January 8th, due to the federal holiday.**



Register Here!

Please register for this free Zoom Webinar at:  
[ksre-learn.com/KStateGardenHour](https://ksre-learn.com/KStateGardenHour)



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

### Garden Hour Webinars:

- **January 8th- A Beginners Guide to Gardening in Kansas**
- **February 5th- Maximizing Irrigation Efficiency with Drip Irrigation**
- **March 5th- Establishing a Native Prairie Stand at Home**

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/>

January 2025

# Upcoming Events

## RAIN BARREL CLINIC

Andover Public Library  
1511 E Central Ave, Andover, KS  
Clinic is free!  
Make your own rain barrel for \$50!

SATURDAY,  
FEBRUARY  
8TH AT  
9:30 A.M.



- ✓ How to make a rain barrel
- ✓ How to care for a rain barrel
- ✓ Plants for a Resilient Landscape
- ✓ How to reduce water use in the garden and landscape



**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

Butler County

RSVP FOR A RAIN BARREL BY  
JAN. 30TH  
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 TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE START OF THE EVENT AT 316-321-9660 OR CALLA@KSRE.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.

## RAIN BARREL CLINIC

Butler County Community/4-H Building  
200 N Griffith, El Dorado  
Clinic is free!  
Make your own rain barrel for \$50!

SATURDAY,  
FEBRUARY  
22ND AT  
9:00 A.M.



- ✓ How to make a rain barrel
- ✓ How to care for a rain barrel
- ✓ Plants for a Resilient Landscape
- ✓ How to reduce water use in the garden and landscape



**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

Butler County

RSVP FOR A RAIN BARREL BY  
FEB. 7TH  
CALL (316) 321-9660

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**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

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

**South central mental health**  
HELPING TO SHAPE PROMISING FUTURES

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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for more happily, ever afters...

## 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)

# 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](mailto:cmmiller1@ksu.edu)

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

## Leaving a Lasting Legacy for Midwestern Farm Women: A Succession Planning Series

**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

**N**  
NEBRASKA EXTENSION

**P**  
PURDUE  
UNIVERSITY  
Extension

**LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY FOR MIDWESTERN FARM WOMEN**  
A Succession Planning Series  
In-Person Sites Across 3 States

5-8 p.m. CT  
2025

<b>1.21.25</b> MOTIVATION FOR SUCCESSION PLANNING	<b>1.28.25</b> COMMUNICATING ABOUT ESTATE & TRANSITION PLANNING	<b>2.4.25</b> FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF ESTATE & TRANSFER PLANS	<b>2.11.25</b> LEGAL: PUTTING YOUR PLAN IN PLACE
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**Beaumont Comm. Center**  
11724 SE Beaumont Rd.  
Beaumont, KS 67012

Register by January 12  
[agmanager.info/events](http://agmanager.info/events)

This material is based upon work supported by USDA/NIFA under Award Number 2023-70027-40444.

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

ROBERT CENTER FOR EXTENSION AND MANAGEMENT EDUCATION

I am excited to offer this program and join Cowley County and Rolling Prairie District: Elk County in hosting this program in Beaumont. If you are not able to join in person, virtual attendance is also an option! Refer to the flyer for registration information!

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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 at four weeks prior to the start of the event. 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.

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## Calving Checklist



Calving season has already started for some and others it is just around the corner. The anticipation and excitement of seeing the arrival of newborn calves and planned genetic matings can be very exciting. Around my home place, it's like kids opening a present at Christmas with the arrival of each new calf! We all know not all calving goes perfect. Weather, big calves, premature calves, nutrition and health are just a few of the factors that can play into any calving scenario. Extension Beef Specialist Sandy Johnson and Extension Veterinarian Dr. AJ Tarpoff have created a checklist designed to help you plan and prepare to improve the success of your calving season and weaned calf crop.

- Balance cow rations for adequate protein and energy for increased third trimester and subsequent lactation requirements. Group and feed cows by body condition and age to the degree possible. Target body condition for first calf heifers at calving of 5.5 to 6 and 5 to 5.5 for mature cows.
- Develop sound vaccination program to prepare the cow to produce high quality colostrum.
- Control lice and internal parasites.
- Plan for recording calving data and consider ways to backup records.
- Make sure calving facilities are clean and in good repair
- Plan for ear tags, tattoos, scale or weight tape, banding or castration.
- Check flash lights and other quality portable light sources.
- Check-list for calving assistance
- OB chains, calf puller, OB gloves, OB lube (non-detergent soap & water is one option), non-irritant antiseptic (Betadine or Nolvasan), flank rope to lay cow down
- A cooler can be used to keep warm water in calving barn if no other source available.
- Old towels or similar
- Review basic treatment plans with local veterinarian for retained placenta, calf scours, colostrum replacers and supplements and ensure necessary treatments and supplies are on hand or readily available. Include a functional thermometer.



## Calving Checklist Cont.



- Know the difference between colostrum supplements and replacers, in most instances use replacers that contain at least 100 IgG per dose.
- Have on hand at least 2 clean and functional esophageal tube feeders, clearly marked, one for healthy calves, one only used for sick calves.
- Plan and watch for opportunities to collect colostrum from within the herd. Date and freeze in quart sized plastic bags for future use.

- If replacement calves are obtained from outside the herd, plan for their isolation and testing before exposing to entire herd.
- Plan for severe weather; wind, freezing rain and blizzards are not uncommon. Plan for correcting calf hypothermia. Calf shelters should be in good repair, bedding on hand. Plans for portable windbreaks and calf shelters are available from your local extension office.
- Shift feeding to dusk or later to promote day time calving one week before anticipated start of calving season.





# Ag Talk



## Ag Lease Law



This time of year always brings a lot of questions about Ag leases to our office. The changes in crop prices, land values, input costs, sale of land and the volatility of crop production continues to prompt these questions. More than 80% of agricultural land is leased, so lease arrangements are an important factor in food production. There was a time when landowners and tenants shared a knowledge of production practices and understood the principles involved. As time has passed, many landlords are 2 or 3

generations removed from living on the farm and most do not live in a rural area or are absentee landowners; meaning they live in other states.

These factors continue to heighten the need for improved communications between the tenant and landlord, and it has increased the need for written leases. In the absence of a written lease, the Kansas Ag Lease Law provides the arrangements, even if that is not what both parties want.

Historically, most crop lease arrangements were a share arrangement, and they continue to be. However, we have seen lease arrangement change to a net share arrangement, cash rent arrangement, or other “non-traditional” arrangements. In a crop share arrangement, there are 5 principles that should be followed for an equitable lease.

1. The cost of all yield increasing inputs should be shared. Some examples would be fertilizer and herbicides.
2. Share arrangements should be evaluated as technology changes and adjusted as needed.
3. Total returns should be divided in the same proportions as resources are contributed. All inputs into producing the crop should be added up and the percentage that is put in by each party should determine the percentage of the outcome to each party.
4. Compensation for unused long term investments at lease termination.
5. As mentioned before, good communications. Traditionally, the crop share leases come close to a 1/3 landlord, 2/3 tenant arrangement, but we see many variations from this.

# Ag Talk



## Ag Lease Law Cont.

A net share arrangement is one in which the returns are shared, but none of the inputs are shared. This arrangement is used when the landlord wants to share in the crop risks and rewards, but they do not want to pay bills for things like fertilizer. The landlord's contribution is the "Ag production" value of the land. Most of these arrangements come close to a 25%, 75%.

Cash rents arrangements are traditionally used in pasture rents, many hay meadow arrangements, and some crop production arrangements. Average values for cash rents are available at our office and at [www.agmanager.info](http://www.agmanager.info).

Flexible cash rent is an example of another non-traditional arrangement. If you have questions about lease laws, share arrangements, or rates, give me a call.



A wide range of Ag lease information is available under the Farm Management section of the [www.agmanager.info](http://www.agmanager.info) web site. Another good site is [www.Aglease101.org](http://www.Aglease101.org). Lease termination information is included in the publication: Kansas Agriculture Lease Law. It can be picked up at our office or located in the Lease papers section at the agmanager site. If there is no written terms for a lease termination date, a written termination notice must be provided to the tenant at least 30 days prior to March 1. It should include the legal description of the property and must set the date of termination as March 1.



**AgManager**  
.info

## Dispose of Hay Bale Net Wrap Properly

Net wrap has become a common way to wrap hay bales during the summer hay season. Research shows that net wrap reduces harvest loss and also storage loss due to shedding more water. Besides these benefits, net wrapping hay during harvest saves times. While there are direct benefits to net wrapping hay bales, there is also a downfall, trash.



Driving along county highways and dirt roads, you can find net wrap in the ditches. All it takes is a gust of wind to blow the wrap from the back of a pickup. With the track record of savings that net wrap brings and the durability of it, it also creates issues for those tasked with mowing roads and ditches along with livestock. Net wrap gets caught in the blades of the mowers and it creates choking hazards for livestock and wildlife. A few cattle die every year from eating plastics such as net wrap. The plastic doesn't break down in the rumen and cannot pass through. It is critical when feeding livestock that all of the net wrap be removed from the hay bales. We feed net wrapped bales and I know how hard it is, especially during the winter months, to get it removed. For the safety of your livestock, make sure you get all the net removed.

Due to net generally being made from recycled plastic, it cannot be recycled or burnt. The proper disposal method is placing it in the trash. Once net wrap is removed from the hay bale, it should be securely placed or stowed so it does not come off during transport. Simply tossing it on the back of a pickup is not secure and when you reach your destination you will find that it is no longer where you left and instead has become trash along a road.

Hopefully the warmer weather and grass season will be here soon. In the meantime, make sure to use extra caution removing all the net wrap from bales before feeding and securing it properly so it stays put on the vehicle during transport. Your livestock, the wildlife and those who mow the roads will thank you!

# Ag Talk

## Notice to Terminate a Lease

For all leases, except written leases signed by the parties that provide otherwise, Kansas law provides that notice to terminate farm and pastureland leases must be given as follows: 1. in writing 2. at least 30 days prior to March 1, and 3. must fix March 1 as the termination date of the tenancy. Any notice to terminate which does not comply with the above requirements is inadequate and the tenancy will continue. The law previously applied to “farm” leases and some question existed whether the termination requirements applied to pasture leases. The Kansas legislature recently amended the law, and it is now clear that pastureland leases also must be terminated in this manner except when the parties agree otherwise in writing. For purposes of this termination rule, “pastureland” means land used for livestock grazing or hay production, or both, and includes perennial vegetation.

For more information on the Kansas Ag Lease law, you can contact Charlene or you can visit: A wide range of Ag lease information is available under the Farm Management section of the [www.agmanager.info](http://www.agmanager.info) web site. Another good site is [www.Aglease101.org](http://www.Aglease101.org)

## Corn Leaf Hopper Scouting in Progress



Corn Leaf Hopper scouting is now taking place in Butler County. 3 Fields currently have these sticky traps placed in them. If you have a field in the south or east part of the county you would like to include in this process please contact Charlene at [cmmiller1@ksu.edu](mailto:cmmiller1@ksu.edu). 1 -2 fields can be added. Fields will have to be checked by the Ag Agent every 2 weeks up until around the first part of April.

While Corn Stunt has been in the United States. We have not seen it this far north before. Corn stunt impacts sweet and field corn by hindering early plant growth, damaging ears and changing leaf color.

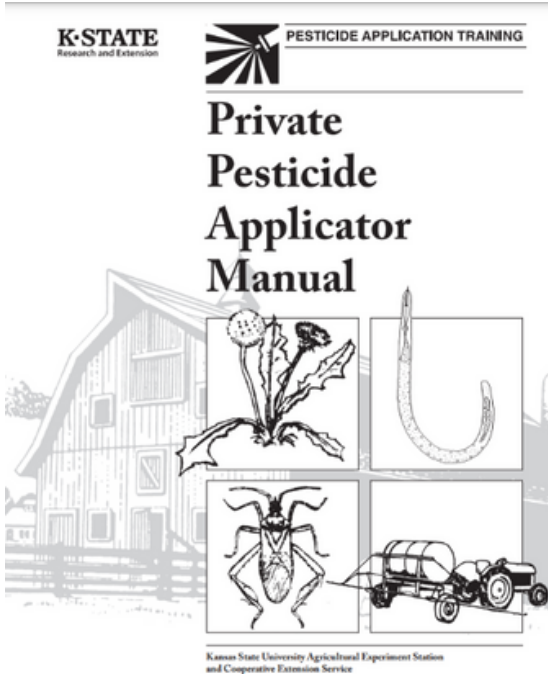
“Late in the growing season, plants will go from green to red/purple in about 30 days after the infection happens,” said Kansas State University plant pathologist Rodrigo Onofre. “When you snap out an infected ear, you will see a sugar accumulation, and the plant is responding by turning purple.” He added: “If the infection happens early in the season, producers might have shortened internodes (the spaces between nodes on a plant’s stem), which results in ‘stunted’ plants.”

Corn Leaf Hoppers are white colored pests responsible for vectoring corn stunt. While leafhopper control may be difficult due to their prolific nature, Onofre recommends treating infestations with insecticides and preventing future events by planting leafhopper-resistant corn varieties.

While corn season is over, this is all important and notable to think about when you start planning your next corn crop. Notable results of the testing will be shared throughout the testing process.

# Ag Talk

## Private Pesticide Applicator Testing New Rules Being Discussed



In our December 2024 newsletter, we shared new rules regarding the Private Pesticide Applicator test that were to take place beginning January 1, 2025. The Kansas Department of Agriculture has not yet implemented these rules. We do know that changes will be coming, but there is uncertainty in what new rules will be approved and the timing of implementation. We will share all important details of the changes as they become available. As of this time, rules to the testing will remain the same.

If you would like to get certified here is what you need to know:

- If you don't already have the book, you can purchase one at our office for \$8.50 if you would like a hard copy of it.
  - You can download an electronic copy online at:  
[https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/private-pesticide-applicator-manual\\_MF531.pdf](https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/private-pesticide-applicator-manual_MF531.pdf)
- The following times are available for testing in our office:
  - No testing will be started after 1:00 p.m. and is not offered on. Tests have taken anywhere from 1.5 hours to 3 hours to complete.
  - All dates will be Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- A check for \$25 made payable to the Kansas Department of Agriculture must be brought with you to testing. This does not cover the cost of the book and the book has to be paid separate.
- You can learn more on the testing at: <https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/pesticides-ipm/private-applicator.html>

If you have any questions, please contact Charlene at the Butler County Extension Office at 316) 321-9660 or [cmmiller1@ksu.edu](mailto:cmmiller1@ksu.edu)

# 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

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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/>

*Take a Kinder Approach to Your Goals*



Often when it comes to goal-setting, we often think it's all or nothing. We think, 'I have to do this' or 'I have to be focused...' That is not necessarily the best or most successful way to achieve what you're looking for. Instead, take the long view on goals. When it comes to pursuing goals, even a little progress means a lot. Take a kinder, more gentle approach.

Think about this: there are 168 hours in a week, how much of that time do you actually need to achieve your personal, financial, health, or other goals? Some things only take about an hour a week. You can make a big amount of progress on a project by spending an hour or two a week on a regular basis.

For example, if you want to read a book, but feel overwhelmed, spend just 5-10 minutes a day reading. Or if a goal is to get in better physical shape, dedicate 15-20 minutes a few times a week as an entry point.

This approach to goal-setting works when managing the family's finances, too. If you want to increase your family's emergency fund...what you could do is plan to put aside a small amount each month, perhaps as little as \$10 per month. That might not seem like a lot, but over a year, that's \$120 for your emergency fund that you didn't have previously.

It's important to share your goals as a family, particularly when it comes to spending money. When appropriate, involve kids, particularly as they grow older and transition into helping with such expenses as vehicles, insurance, weddings and more. Sharing your goals as a family can allow for the family to work together, grow together, and keep one another accountable.

Sometimes – whatever goals you're setting – you don't take your intended actions. Don't beat yourself up. Wherever you're at, just keep thinking ahead. Share your goals, write them down and review them periodically; but don't obsess over them. Remember baby steps take a child from walking to running. Be kind to yourself and keep pushing forward.

# Just the FACS

## January is Kansas Radon Action Month!

### Protect Your Family from Radon

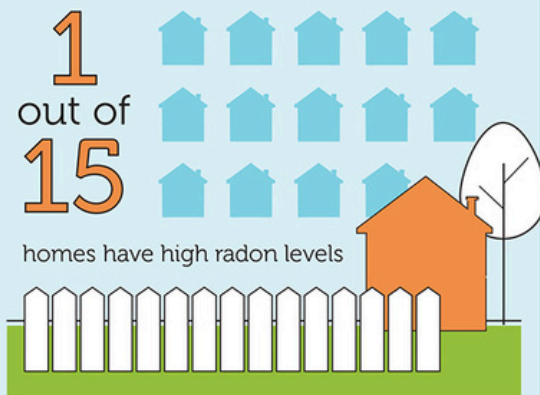
Radon is a gas that you can't see, smell, or taste – but it can be dangerous. It's the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S.



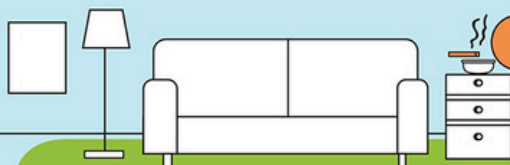
Radon is in the ground naturally. But sometimes it gets into homes through cracks in the floors or walls.

1  
out of  
15

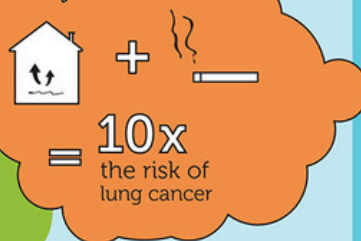
homes have high radon levels



### Radon and Smoking: A Dangerous Combination



If you live in a home with high radon levels, smoking raises your risk of lung cancer by **10 times**.



### Take the First Step

There's good news – you can protect your family by testing your home for radon.

Learn more by calling the National Radon Hotline:  
**1-800-SOS-RADON**



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Center for Environmental Health

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

It is important that you know your risks when it comes to radon. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas released in rock, soil and water that can build up to dangerous levels inside any home; this means new and old homes, well-sealed and drafty homes, and homes with or without a basement.

Breathing radon can increase your risk of lung cancer and is the number one cause of lung cancer among people who do not smoke. Homes with high levels of radon have been found in every state. In fact, radon levels can vary greatly from home to home--even levels next door can be very different.

Radon gas is odorless and invisible, and the only way to know if your home has a radon problem is to test for it.

Take action today by visiting the Butler County Extension Office to purchase your radon test, and encourage your friends and family members to do the same!



# Just the FACS

**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

Hypertension Awareness  
and Prevention Program

## Nourish Your Heart

**JOIN US TO LEARN TIPS AND TRICKS FOR MAKING HEALTHY EATING SIMPLE AND DELICIOUS!**

### FEEDING YOUR HEART: HEALTHY FATS

Healthy fats add flavor, texture, and help with nutrient absorption. Come learn which fats are heart-healthy and which to avoid.

### SHAKE OFF THE EXCESS SODIUM

Decreasing your sodium intake is one of the best things you can do for your heart! Come learn which foods are high in sodium and which are heart-healthy.

### COOKING WITH HERBS & SPICES

Healthy cooking can be quick, easy, and fun. Come learn healthy cooking skills to enhance flavor without added salt.

### HEART-SMART EATING WHEN YOU ARE OUT & ABOUT

Making heart-healthy choices when you can't cook at home can be a challenge. Come learn how to make healthier choices when eating out.

## MONTHLY NUTRITION EDUCATION WORKSHOPS NEAR YOU!

WORKSHOPS ARE FREE:

**Douglass Senior Center**  
124 W 4th St, Douglass, KS

All classes begin at 11 AM

- Tuesday, October 29th
- Tuesday, November 12th
- Tuesday, November 19th
- Tuesday, November 26th
- Tuesday, December 17th
- Tuesday, January 14th



**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension  
Butler County

### QUESTIONS?

**Bonnie Brewer**  
Family & Consumer Sciences Agent  
bjbrewer@ksu.edu  
Phone: (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. 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, Bonnie Brewer, four weeks prior to the start of the event at 316-321-9660 or 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. K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# Garden Gossip

**Calla Edwards**

Horticulture Agent

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## Caring for Holiday Plants

The holidays have come and gone but the plants we purchased during that time are still around. While some plants purchased for the holidays are only around for a short time, for example Christmas trees, others can bring us joy for many years if cared for properly.

Poinsettias are one the most common and probably the most popular of the plants sold around the holidays. They can make an easy-to-care-for, gorgeous houseplant if you decide to keep them after the holidays. In their native range, poinsettias develop woody stems and grow to be the size of small trees, so one of the first steps to their indoor care is to transplant them into a larger pot to allow the roots room to grow. Water them when the top inch of soil gets dry and provide plenty of light. Trim the poinsettias



back around Valentine's Day to prevent them from becoming leggy and start fertilizing them at half-strength. Once the weather warms up they can be moved outside and slowly transitioned to full sun for the summer. Water and fertilize regularly through the summer till September when you bring them back indoors. To encourage a bushy plant with more blooms prune them back about Father's Day for the final time.



Holiday cacti are probably the longest-lived of the plants you can purchase for the holidays with some living to be well over 100 years old or longer. Holiday cacti are tropical cacti that prefer to be watered when the top two inches of the soil get dry. Similar to the poinsettia, wait to fertilize them till February and then fertilize regularly throughout the growing season till they set blooms in the fall. These cacti can be moved outside once nighttime temperatures are above

# Garden Gossip

## Caring for Holiday Plants Cont.



50 degrees, but keep them in an area where they get morning sun and afternoon shade only. They will burn in full afternoon sun in our area. The plants should be brought inside in the fall when the weather is cool and treated like a houseplant. Holiday cacti prefer to be pot bound and should only be transplanted every couple years into slightly larger pots.

Amaryllis are the final holiday plant to talk about. While not as long-lived as the others, amaryllis can provide years of enjoyment in the home. The secret to getting them to rebloom is to have healthy plants. Once they have finished blooming, cut off the blooms but leave the bloom stalk. A green stem will continue to promote photosynthesis, which creates energy that is stored in the bulb for future leaf growth and flowers. Start fertilizing at half strength in February and continue fertilizing through the summer. Move the amaryllis outdoors in the summer and treat it like any other outdoor plant till fall. If you bought a bulb wrapped in wax you must remove the wax or the plant will die. Take a sharp knife and cut a “v” in the wax at the base then slowly peel the wax off the bulb, leaving as much of the brown papery covering as possible. Place the bulb on a damp paper towel for 4 to 6 weeks till the bulb has 3 to 4 roots that are three inches long. Transplant the bulb into a pot about two inches larger than the diameter of the bulb. This process may take several months but the bulb should live. If your amaryllis does not bloom in the spring, it didn’t store enough nutrients the previous growing season.



# Garden Gossip

## Winter Care of Tools



Winter, with its cold, dreary days, is the perfect time to prepare your garden tools for the growing season. If taken care of properly, tools can last for years and make your job easier. If you don't take care of your tools they can quickly rust, become dull, and make gardening harder. Here are a few tips to help keep your tools in top shape for this gardening season.

The first step with your tools is always to get them cleaned up. It's best to remove the soil from your tools right after you are finished using them, but that isn't always possible. Soap and water are an easy way to remove dirt from any tool. Use a wire brush or steel wool for stubborn dirt or small creases. If the tool is covered in sap you can use rubbing alcohol, mineral spirits, or a foaming bathroom cleanser.

The second step is to disinfect any tools to prevent the spread of diseases among your plants. Ideally, this step should be done after every use but that can be hard on tools. One of the easiest ways to clean your tools is by soaking them for 30 minutes in a diluted bleach solution containing 9 parts of water to 1 part of bleach. You can also wipe tools using 70 to 100% rubbing alcohol. Once the tools are clean and disinfected you can sharpen your shovels and pruning tools. Sharp tools make any task easier, especially pruning or digging with a shovel.



The final step with tools is to inspect the handles and sand down any rough spots to prevent splinters. Treat the wooden handles with linseed or mineral oil to keep the wood strong and help the tools last longer. If you do have tools that need replacing, now is the time to do it before the growing season starts.

# Garden Gossip

**Calla Edwards**

Horticulture Agent

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

## January Gardening Calendar

### Vegetables and Fruits

- Pick up and discard fallen fruit before spring arrives
- As nursery catalogs arrive, look for plants with improved insect and disease resistance
- Order fruit trees



### Flowers

- Peruse seed catalogs and prepare your seed order
- Things you can start: get unplanted spring bulbs in the ground as soon as possible
- Start seeds throughout the winter, depending on growing requirements
- Water fall planted perennials to prevent dry soil conditions
- Watch for signs of frost heaving and cover tender roots
- Replace mulch layers
- Check bulbs in storage for rot and decay. Discard damaged ones
- Curl up with a good book and learn more about gardening



# Garden Gossip

## January Gardening Calendar Cont.

### Lawns

- Avoid walking on frozen lawns. It may injure the grass
- Rake fallen leaves that pile up on the lawn to prevent suffocation of grass
- Scatter snow instead of piling it up on the lawn next to drives and walks



### Trees and Shrubs

- Snow and ice on limbs:
  - \* Gently brush heavy snow from tree and shrub limbs to reduce damage
  - \* Allow ice to melt naturally from limbs. Do not use water to melt the ice or attempt to knock it off
- Pruning:
  - \* Prune storm-damaged limbs quickly to reduce damage and prevent tearing of bark
  - \* Avoid the temptation to prune on warm winter days. You'll prevent further damage
  - \* Bring twigs of flowering trees and shrubs indoors to force blossoms
  - \* Water the fall-planted trees and shrubs when the soil is dry but not frozen
  - \* Watch out for rabbit damage to the bark of trees and shrubs



### Miscellaneous

- Clean and repair garden tools during the winter
- Sand and seal tool handles to prevent splinter. Apply brightly colored paint to handles. It makes them easier to spot in the garden
- Keep bird feeders and water supplies filled for the feathered friends
- Evaluate the garden and make notes to assist in next year's planning
- Take photos of the garden and analyze for year-round interest



# 4-H

## Madeline Wallace

4-H Youth and Development Agent

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

## A Minute with Madeline

Happy New Year, Butler County 4-H members! As we step into 2025, it's the perfect time to think about setting healthy habits that will help you thrive throughout the year. Whether you're focusing on physical fitness, eating well, or taking care of your mental health, small changes can make a big difference. Let's explore some fun and simple ways you can stay healthy in the New Year!



### 1. Stay Active, Even in the Winter

Winter in Kansas can be cold, but that doesn't mean you can't stay active! Find activities that you can enjoy indoors, such as dancing, yoga, or playing active video games. If you want to brave the outdoors, try sledding or a winter hike. Remember, physical activity is not only good for your body, but it also boosts your mood and energy levels, which helps you feel your best!

### 2. Healthy Eating Starts at Home

As a 4-H member, you might already be familiar with some great ways to grow healthy food, but did you know that eating well is key to feeling good? Start small by adding more fruits and vegetables to your meals or replacing sugary snacks with nuts or yogurt. A great New Year's goal could be learning a new healthy recipe each month or exploring different ways to make your favorite meals healthier. You can also try cooking with fresh, locally grown produce—maybe even from your own garden!



### 3. Focus on Mental Health

Taking care of your mental health is just as important as taking care of your physical health. The New Year is a perfect time to start practicing mindfulness and stress-reducing activities like deep breathing or journaling. A simple way to start is by setting aside a few minutes each day to relax and reflect on things you're grateful for. This practice can help improve your mood and create a positive mindset as you face new challenges.

# 4-H

## A Minute with Madeline Cont.

### 4. Get Enough Sleep

A healthy habit that can sometimes get overlooked is making sure you get enough sleep. Sleep is essential for your body and mind to recharge. As a 4-H member, balancing school, activities, and 4-H projects can be busy, but remember to set aside enough time to rest each night. A goal for the New Year could be aiming for 8-10 hours of sleep per night—especially before big events like meetings, contests, or county fair!



### 5. Volunteer and Stay Connected

One of the best ways to stay mentally healthy is by connecting with others and giving back to your community. Butler County has many opportunities for 4-H members to volunteer, whether it's helping with local events, supporting food drives, or assisting younger members with their projects. Volunteering is a great way to stay active, build relationships, and contribute to something meaningful, all of which are great for your well-being.

### 6. Set Achievable Goals

Now that you're thinking about your health, why not set some achievable goals for the year? You might want to challenge yourself to walk 10,000 steps a day, cook a new healthy recipe each week, or dedicate a few minutes every day to a mindfulness practice. Whatever goals you set, make sure they're realistic and fun. Writing them down and sharing them with a friend or family member can help keep you on track!



As you kick off the year, remember that healthy habits don't happen overnight. It's all about making small, positive changes and sticking with them. Take it one step at a time, and you'll see how these habits can make a big difference in your life. Let's make 2025 a year of growth, health, and success!

Here's to a happy and healthy New Year, Butler County 4-H!



# 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-Her's 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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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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