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Lyon County

K-State Research and Extension News

*“Knowledge
for Life”*

**April
&
May 2015**

**Lyon County
Extension Office**

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It's SPRINGTIME!!

Springtime – that wonderful time of year when temperatures warm, we get more sunshine, and hopefully begin to get a little more outside exercise. It's a time when we often see new life emerge after a long winter – from grass and other plants to wildlife and domestic animals, new life abounds.

Springtime can also be the beginning of a new segment in life for many, as prom and graduation activities will be taking place. These beginnings can take many forms but we hope that graduates at all levels have a successful new life.

For those of us involved with K-State Research and Extension, we see activities in the spring take many forms. Planting and new crop growth takes place in yards, gardens and crop fields. 4-H members spend a little more time each day on their respective projects and getting ready for spring shows. More than 600 people are participating in Walk Kansas through KSRE-Lyon County this year.

In the Flint Hills of east-central Kansas, spring is also a time when the air often has a hint (or occasionally is thick) with smoke from native rangeland burning. This process helps to not only sustain the beauty and openness of the prairies, but also increases the ability of livestock producers to be economically sustainable. For those that might not realize it, livestock and crop agriculture play a significant role in the economic viability of Lyon County and the surrounding area.

As springtime rolls into summer, we can all become a little more active, get out and enjoy some sunshine and the outdoors. Whether it's working in the yard or garden in preparation for some visual or dining enjoyment, taking pictures of activities, working with 4-H projects, or just getting out and walking to improve our health, take the opportunity to enjoy the spring!



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KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION AND COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE



The Clover Connection



It's Show Time

Information on upcoming livestock shows is steadily flowing into the Extension office. Don't forget to come in and check out the green notebook on Debbie's desk for show flyers. We collect copies of all the show information we receive as well as some information on other projects that there isn't room to highlight in the newsletter.

Gary Fuller Spring Classic

The Lyon County Spring livestock show is now the Gary Fuller Spring Classic. It's scheduled for May 2-3 at the Fairgrounds. Species will include sheep, meat goats, bucket calves, beef and swine. The Bluestem Farm and Ranch Supply Prize Trailer will again be on hand for prizes for all who participate in showmanship and other winners. The pig show will feature a special Gary Fuller Spring Classic belt buckle awarded to the champion market pig. Flyers and registration forms are available online at www.lyon.ksu.edu or at the Extension Office. Pre-entries are due April 24.

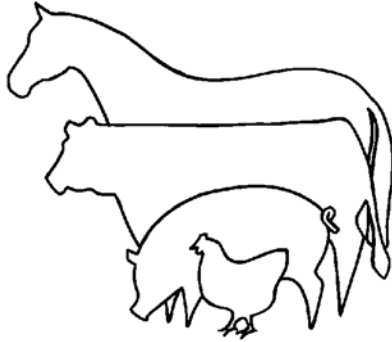
Volunteer Training and Registration (VIP)

A Volunteer Training will be hosted April 15 at 6 p.m. at the Extension Office Meeting Room. This class is one step in the Volunteer Registration process for volunteers with reoccurring roles in Lyon County Extension programs working with youth. Any individual who works with youth at least three times per year must be VIP registered. Please RSVP by April 10 to the Extension Office at 341-3220 and complete the volunteer service application at <http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/bookstore/pubs/4H673.pdf>. Any 4-Her hoping to serve as a camp counselor should plan to attend this training. There is no guarantee the 4-Her will be selected to serve as a counselor, but the volunteer training must be completed to be considered.

Countywide New Family Meeting

Families with new members to Lyon County 4-H are invited to attend a meeting hosted by New Family Coordinator Janet Harrouff on May 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the Extension Office Meeting Room. Janet will cover many topics and answer questions regarding the 4-H program. This is a great opportunity for new families to meet other

new members from across the county, and also learn from questions by others new to the program. Please RSVP to the Extension Office at 341-3220 by May 4 if you plan to attend.



2015 4-H Fair Notes

The 2015 Lyon County Fair is set for Aug. 6-15. The Friends of 4-H Picnic will kick off 4-H related activities on July 30 with other various pre-fair judging activities July 21-Aug. 2 and Aug. 6. Livestock will be required to be in place on the fairgrounds Aug. 7 and released Aug. 11. The Anderson Building will be released on Aug. 13. The 4-H Diner will be open through Aug. 15.

There will be no sheep and goat veterinarian check again this year. All livestock exhibitors are expected to bring healthy, disease free animals no matter what species is exhibited. The Extension program, fair officials and livestock coordinators reserve the right to have any diseased animal and its cohorts removed from the fairgrounds at the owner's expense.

In an effort to ease the pig weigh-in pressure as well as the late evening for 4-Hers, the swine coordinators will again host the official pig weigh-in Friday, Aug. 7 from 3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Pigs can be weighed as you unload them. It will be the 4-Her's responsibility to make sure their animal gets weighed in.

Countywide Woodworking Meeting

Mark Say will host a woodworking meeting April 12 at 2 p.m. at the Lyon County Extension Office. He will go over plans for 2015 fair projects and help share what types of projects are appropriate for different ages or levels of experience. He will also share examples of tools that are needed for getting started in woodworking. 4-Hers will also test their knowledge of the different types of joins used on different project. Please RSVP to 341-3220 by April 10. The meeting will last approximately 1.5 hours.



Livestock Breeding Classes at Fair

Remember, to participate in a livestock breeding class at the county fair, breeding animals must be tagged or have official registration papers turned into the Extension Office by May 1. A 4-Her also must be enrolled in that specific specie's breeding project. If you do not know if you are enrolled in the breeding project for your desired species, 4-Hers should login to 4-H Online by May 1 to add/drop or enroll in the project to be eligible to enter a breeding animal at the fair.

Horse IDs, Dog IDs & Add/Drop Date

May 1 is a big day. All Horse ID forms and Dog ID forms are due *and* this is the deadline to add or drop a project for the fair.

Horse members - Anyone who wishes to show their horse at the County Fair, District Horse Show, Kansas State Fair, or participate in the 4-H Rodeo must update their horse ID papers. Bring your original ID in for an Agent to sign by May 1, 2015. If you have never completed an ID paper for your horse, or you have a new horse, you must complete a horse ID by May 1, 2015. Copies are available from the Extension Office. A colored picture showing all four (4) feet and a profile of the horse with the head turned a quarter toward the camera is also required. **No horse IDs will be signed past May 1, 2015, to participate in any of the above events. This is an absolute deadline – there will be no exceptions!**

Dog members - Anyone who wishes to show at the County Fair or Kansas State Fair, must update their dog ID papers. Bring your original ID in for an Agent to sign by May 1, 2015. If you have never completed an ID paper for your dog, or if you have a new dog, you must complete an ID by May 1, 2015. Copies are available from the Extension Office. A colored picture showing a full body side view, all four feet and legs, and a profile of the dog with its head turned is also required. **No dog IDs will be signed past May 1, 2015, to participate in any of the above events. This is an absolute deadline – there will be no exceptions!**

Adding and dropping a project will be done through your individual 4-H Online accounts at <https://ks.4honline.com>. You will need your login (the email you used to sign up) and your password to check your account. Please do not wait until last minute to update/verify your projects. Don't just think your projects are correct, please go online and verify.

4-H Council

4-H Council will meet on April 6, and May 4, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. The Council meetings will be held in the meeting room at the Extension Office.

Lyon County Cacklers 4-H Poultry Club

The Lyon County Cacklers met on March 15 to host an Avian Quiz Bowl. In the Senior Division Karlee Wigton placed first and Emma Miller placed second. Isaac Miller placed first in the Intermediate Division, and John Pringle placed second. The Junior Division placed Bethany DeDonder first, Taylor Pringle second, and Jonas Kern third. This year we also had an Adult Division. LaDeana Wigton placed first in it. Mandy Kerns placed second, and Sara Miller and Michelle Pringle tied for third in the Adult Division.

The April meeting will be hosted at Michelle Pringle's house to look at the chicken tractors they have built for both laying hens and meat birds.

Meat Bird orders need to be e-mailed to Nancy Robinson at lyoncountycacklers@hotmail.com by April 19. Remember that members will be able to take one pen of three birds to display at the fair. Birds will cost around \$3 each, and members will be responsible for paying the processing fee on their own birds in August.

Summer Shooting Sports

The summer disciplines will start with safety meetings held the month of April or first part of May. **You must attend the safety meeting for each discipline you wish to participate.** You must also be enrolled in the 4-H Online system for each discipline. Please login and verify your 4-Her(s) is properly enrolled before May 1. Mandatory safety meetings are scheduled for:

- **Archery** – Tuesday, April 7 at 6:30 p.m. or Sunday, April 12 at 2:00 p.m. at the Holland property located at 1257 Rd 137, Emporia. This is the location for regular practices.
- **Smallbore pistol and rifle** – Thursday April 30 at 7:00 p.m. at the Extension Office Meeting Room.
- **Muzzleloading** – Thursday, April 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the Extension Office Meeting Room
- **Shotgun** – Tuesday May 5 or Thursday May 7, 7:00 p.m. at the Extension Office Meeting Room.

Official practice dates for each discipline will be given out at the safety meetings. The tentative schedules are

included in the following to help start planning your summer schedules. Remember, discipline fees will be due at the safety meetings, and safety meetings are mandatory for each discipline to be able to participate – no exceptions.

The tentative dates for practices include (subject to change): Archery practices are scheduled at the Holland's property on April 19 and 26, May 10 and 31 and June 7 and 21. Shotgun and smallbore pistol will host practices at the city range at 9:00 a.m. May 16 and 30, June 13 and 27 and July 11 and 18. Smallbore rifle will practice May 5 and 19 and June 2, 16 and 30. Muzzleloading will practice at 6:00 p.m. May 7 and May 22 for new muzzleloading shooters and May 14 and 25 for experienced shooters. Muzzleloading practice will then be hosted every Thursday in June for all shooters with the ribbon shoot July 23.

If you have questions please contact Kim Botkin at kimwbotkin@gmail.com or 342-7356.

Camp Registration

The Sunny Hills 4-H Camp will be June 15-18, 2015. Camp will be open to 4-H'ers who have **completed** 3rd through 7th grades. Camp flyers are available at the Extension Office. Camp costs \$175 this year. There is also an estimated \$10 fee for the bus to be paid at time of registration. Fill out the registration form on the back of the flyer and bring the form and a \$50 deposit to the Extension Office by May 8. Scholarships may be available so contact the Extension Office for details and deadlines. If you have any questions about camp, call the office.



4-H Camp Counselor Applications

4-H Camp Counselor applications are ready! All camp counselors must have completed 9th grade and must be VIP approved. Sunny Hills 4-H Camp will be June 15-18, 2015. Counselors will attend training on June 14. Applications will be due by 5:00 p.m. on May 8. Absolutely no late applications will be accepted, so don't wait until the last minute. If you have any questions, contact the Extension Office.

Fibers Arts Project Assistance

4-Hers needing assistance with fiber arts projects are invited to attend a project meeting hosted by Barbara Say Saturday, April 18 from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Lyon County Extension Office. She asks 4-Hers to bring ideas, problems, questions and or started projects. She will also talk about and start on quilts for the fair. Please RSVP to the Extension Office by April 15 at 341-3220.

County-wide Electrical Meeting

A county-wide electrical meeting is scheduled for May 24 at 2:00 p.m. in the Extension Office Meeting Room. At this meeting 4-Hers will learn how to strip wires, fasten connectors and solder wires. Bring a good quality plug and receptacle, and approximately 25 feet of 16-3 gauge cable. If you need Mark Say to provide materials at your cost, please indicate so in your RSVP. An RSVP is required by Friday, May 22. The meeting will last approximately 1.5 hours.

2015 4-H Campference!

Campference is scheduled for May 31-June 3, 2015 at Rock Springs 4-H Center, near Junction City, Kan. Campference is open to any youth ages 12 to 14, before January 1, 2015.

Participants will experience the feel of a conference, while enjoying many of the "camp" activities Rock Springs 4-H Center has to offer. Workshops feature opportunities in the 4-H program. Activities will energize students while they learn leadership skills and how to better interact with others. Cost for Campference is \$265. Please contact the Extension Office or visit www.Kansas4-H.org to learn more and to get registered. Registration is due May 1. Space is limited.

Discovery Days 2015

Discovery Days 2015 is scheduled for May 26-29, 2015 at Kansas State University in Manhattan. This university experience is open to youth 13-18 and features workshops and tours about 4-H projects, careers, hobbies, community service activities and more on the beautiful K-State campus.

See the registration worksheet available at www.Kansas4-H.org to help select sessions that interest you most. Some sessions do require an additional fee to cover the cost of supplies. You'll meet hundreds of other youth, gain new life skills, and have an amazing experience at Discovery Days! More information is available at www.Kansas4-H.org. The registration costs \$205. The registration fee is due to the Extension Office

by April 15. Don't delay, classes are filled on a first come, first serve basis.

Hop to It News

The Hop To It 4-H Rabbit Club Spring Show has been rescheduled for April 11, in the North Lyon County Community Center at Allen. The club will be setting up Friday evening starting at 6 p.m. The building will be open by 7 a.m. Saturday morning. Entries will be accepted until 8 a.m. The show will start by 9 a.m.

4-Hers who plan to show meat pens for the 2015 Lyon County Fair should be certain litters are born by June 1. Breeding should take place by May 2 to make them the correct age for fair time.

The club's regular monthly meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Extension meeting room. If you have any question call (620) 794-2845 after 5 p.m.

Rawhide Wranglers

Don't miss the next Rawhide Wranglers 4-H horse club meetings April 28 and May 26 starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Extension Office Meeting Room. The summer practices are being scheduled, so watch the Rawhide Wranglers Facebook page for more details.

The Rawhide Wranglers Spring Open Rodeo and Horse Show are scheduled for June 27 and June 28 on the Lyon County Fairgrounds.

Petting Zoo

The 4-H Petting Zoo will be Wednesday, May 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you would like to bring an animal for the petting zoo or help in any way, please call the office and let us know what you would like to do.

Countywide Tagging Dates

Countywide tagging for sheep, meat goats, swine and bucket calves will be Saturday, April 25 from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. and Wednesday, April 29 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Lyon County Fairgrounds. Tags will be \$3 each for all species.



Youth PQA+ Training online

Youth needing recertification or certification for Youth Pork Quality Assurance (PQA+) training will have the option to complete the training online this year. A PQA+ training class is not



planned for Lyon County this year. Any youth ages 8-19 who wish to exhibit out of Lyon County at a state or national show is required to be certified. The online training will require that you know your current PQA+ certification number (if you are already in the system/have taken the class before). Please be sure to locate your certificate or contact the Extension Office for your certification number if you cannot locate it. Then, visit: <https://lms.pork.org/Account/RegisterYouth.aspx> to register and begin the process.

Southeast Area 4-H Contests

This year's Southeast Area judging contests will be at the Neodesha City Hall on June 23. The City Hall is located at 1407 N. 8th in Neodesha. The contest will consist of horticulture, crops and photography, family and consumer science (FCS) and favorite foods divisions.

The Southeast Area Livestock Contests including livestock judging, skill-a-thon and meats contests will be hosted in Yates Center on June 25.

Extension on Facebook

If you haven't already, be sure to like K-State Research and Extension – Lyon County on Facebook. Last minute reminders and various Extension updates are posted, including 4-H reminders.

Project Record Keeping and Achievement

As 4-Hers are attending project meetings and working on projects for fair, it's time to also consider record keeping. 4-Hers are encouraged to complete Kansas Award Portfolios on each project. The KAPs are age appropriate forms that help youth and their caring adults record information and track participation in a project. Lyon County 4-H Council awards every 4-Her who completes a KAP and a Project Checklist with a project pin at the October Achievement Celebration. If you want to make sure you are meeting project requirements, the checklist is available at <http://www.lyon.ksu.edu/doc40834.ashx>. KAPs can be found online at www.kansas4-h.org/p.aspx?tabid=476.

CHECKLIST FOR EXCELLENCE IN A 4-H PROJECT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD	
Leaders are to use this checklist with the Extension Office along with the other record applications by September 1. Every 4-H member that takes a second book should include this checklist. This checklist should include ONLY 4-H activities, NOT school activities.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Junior 7 - 9 years	Must answer "YES" to questions 1 through 1.
<input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate 10-12 years	Must answer "YES" to questions 1 through 3 and "YES" to two of the remaining questions.
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior 13 - 19 years	Must answer "YES" to questions 1 through 5 and "YES" to three of the remaining questions.
NAME: _____ AGE BY JANUARY 1 st : _____	
PROJECT AREA: _____	
PARENT'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____	
No. of countywide project meetings held this year: _____ No. attended: _____	
No. of local club project meetings held this year: _____ No. attended: _____	
YES NO 1.	Attended at least three project meetings related activities? List: _____
YES NO 2.	Presented at least one talk about the project? (i.e., County Club Day, Club Project Meeting, Club Show, etc.) Title: _____
YES NO 3.	Took a completed record book? _____
YES NO 4.	Attended at least one half of your club's regularly scheduled meetings? How many meetings held: _____ How many attended: _____
YES NO 5.	Exhibitor or participant at the Lyon County Fair? If no club, exhibitor in another county? List exhibitor: _____
YES NO 4.	Participated in a county-wide activity or was a 4-H volunteer on the project (judging, Club Day, Spring Show, etc.). List event: _____
YES NO 7.	Took part in a project time or field trip? List event: _____
YES NO 8.	Served as a Fair "Team Representative"? List fair division project event: _____
YES NO 9.	Served as an Assistant Project Leader in your club for respective project? List name of project leader you assisted: _____
YES NO 10.	Completed "Survey of Knowledge" related to this project? _____
Leader's Initials: _____	



Lyon County Extension Agent
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Agriculture and Natural Resources

April-May 2015

Burning and Burn Permits for 2015

We have already seen some impacts of burning in Lyon and neighboring counties, as the native range burning season has begun. This is an important time of year to safely utilize fire as a management tool to control brush and invasive species, enhance the productivity and quality of the pastures, and preserve the overall beauty of the Flint Hills of Kansas.

We were fortunate to have some late summer and fall rains that allowed for regrowth on the grasslands. This has provided a good fuel load for fires this spring. And, we have had a drier than average winter so this fuel is very dry at this time. Variable winds have created some escapes already this spring where controlled burns have quickly gotten out of control. If you are going to use fire as a management tool, PLEASE use extreme caution!

If you are going to conduct a prescribed burn, be certain to follow the local regulations. In addition to ensuring you have adequate personnel and equipment to control the burn, in Lyon County that involves having a burn permit, calling sheriff's dispatch prior to starting the burn and again once complete. Also, PLEASE become familiar with the www.ksfire.org website and the smoke modeling tool found there. The tool helps forecast the impact of a burn based on acreage, humidity, weather conditions, wind direction and wind speed. And the initial smoke modeling page will show the *potential* air quality impacts of burning on major cities, giving an indication of when may or may not be good days to burn from an *air quality perspective*. I know that this may be a little different than YEARS ago, but we need to pay attention to this in an effort to keep fire as an integral range management option. There has been some talk of tightening the air quality standards further, and the best way to avoid more restrictions is to pay attention to how we utilize one of the best tools available.

If you are managing CRP or EQIP acres and a controlled burn is in the management plan, talk with the NRCS about your options and potentially burn prior to April 1 ***IF*** conditions are safe to do so. This will help to reduce the smoke load and continue compliance with the Flint Hills Smoke Management Plan and hopefully be able to preserve fire as a prairie management tool.

In Lyon County, burn permits are **REQUIRED** for open burning of grass, woody species, crop residue and other dry plant growth for the purpose of land, crop, range,

pasture and wildlife or watershed management. Be sure to **CALL** Lyon County Sheriff's Dispatch (342-5545) to provide your permit number both **BEFORE** starting your controlled burn as well as **AFTER** it is completed. The current burn permit cycle for Lyon County residents is 2014-15, meaning the permit you got last year is still valid – you don't need a new one each year.

If you are going to use fire – for pasture, brush piles, or pine trees (from pine wilt – recommended to destroy these prior to April 1, and neither pines nor brush piles can be burned during the month of April according to the Flint Hills Smoke Management Plan), **PLEASE BE CAREFUL!!** We are still extremely dry and the above ground vegetation will burn very quickly. I have known of fires to burn on dried roots beneath the ground and rekindle away from the original site under these conditions. So be careful, be responsible, be a good neighbor, follow the law, and let's preserve fire for a management tool for the future!

Herbicides on Wheat – Timing is Critical

The warm temperatures during most of March have allowed the wheat to start to grow (hopefully it doesn't get set back too much with cooler temps forecast at the time of this writing). Along with the wheat, many cool season weed species have been growing as well and can be controlled with herbicides. But there should be some caution when using herbicides – not only to timing on the wheat crop but also with potential crops following.

Dicamba can be applied to wheat between the 2-leaf and jointing stages of wheat. Application of dicamba after wheat reaches the jointing stage of growth causes severe prostrate growth of wheat and significant risk of yield loss. Dicamba is effective for control of kochia, Russian thistle, and wild buckwheat, but is not good for control of mustard species. Kochia, Russian thistle, and wild buckwheat are summer annual weeds that may emerge before or after wheat starts to joint, so timing of dicamba for control of these weeds can sometimes be difficult. Fortunately, dicamba provides some residual control of these weeds following application. Other herbicides that must be applied prior to jointing include Olympus Flex, Agility SG, Orion, Beyond (on Clearfield varieties only), Olympus, PowerFlex, Pulsar, Rage D-Tech, and Rave.

MCPA and 2,4-D have different application guidelines. In general, MCPA is safer on wheat than 2,4-D, especially when applied prior to tillering. We

recommend that 2,4-D not be applied to wheat until it is well-tillered in the spring. Application of 2,4-D prior to tillering hinders the tillering process, causes general stunting and can result in significant yield loss.

2,4-D is labeled for application to wheat from the full-tiller stage until prior to the boot stage of growth, but is probably safest between full-tiller and jointing stages of growth. Wheat will sometimes exhibit prostrate growth from 2,4-D applications applied in the jointing stage of growth, but yields generally are not significantly affected if applied before the boot stage of growth.

MCPA is relatively safe on young wheat and can be applied after the wheat is in the three-leaf stage (may vary by product label) until it reaches the boot stage of growth. Consequently, MCPA would be preferred over 2,4-D if spraying before wheat is well-tillered. Neither herbicide should be applied when wheat is near or in the boot stage of growth, as spraying at that time can result in malformed heads, sterility, and significant yield loss.

Both 2,4-D and MCPA are available in ester or amine formulations. Ester formulations generally provide a little better weed control than amine formulations at the same application rates, but also are more susceptible to vapor drift. Ester formulations generally are compatible for use with fertilizer carriers, while amine formulations often have physical compatibility problems when mixed with liquid fertilizer.

Other herbicides used in the spring on wheat can be applied up to the time the flag leaf is visible, or later. Affinity BroadSpec, Affinity TankMix, Ally Extra SG, Express, Harmony + 2,4-D or MCPA, Harmony Extra, and Supremacy must be applied before the flag leaf is visible. Huskie, Weld, and WideMatch can be applied through the flag leaf stage. Herbicides that can be applied later in the spring – prior to the boot stage -- include Ally + 2,4-D, Amber, Finesse, Starane Ultra, and Starane Plus Salvo.

Spring Scouting

Reports are coming in from areas to the south regarding a couple of issues to be aware of in your fields. Both can have a dramatic impact on your production and profit, but can be controlled.

First, scout your wheat for both insect and disease concerns. There are reports in Texas and Oklahoma of rust on wheat there. Leaf rust and stripe rust are persistent and building in Texas but due to some major winterkill in Oklahoma, leaf rust is struggling. March is

a critical time for leaf rust, as it has to move up the plant from the lower leaves and needs moisture to move up.

Traces of rust were reported in Sumner, Reno and Riley Counties the week of March 16. However, rust needs moisture to travel up the plant. Leaf rust prefers warmer temps, while stripe rust is favored with 30-40° temps. Plant pathologist Eric DeWolf is more concerned with development of leaf rust at this point.

Entomologist Jeff Whitworth has seen more hessian fly in wheat so far this year than in the past 10 years. They usually stay close to where they hatch, but can fly up to a mile and the warmer temps can break down some of the fly resistance in wheat varieties. He's also noted some winter grain mites and army cutworms.

Alfalfa weevils are just starting to hatch, so don't be in too big of a hurry to spray as there are probably 5 to 6 more weeks of hatch. Be certain to scout the entire field, breaking 30-50 stems and shaking them vigorously in a bucket to determine the weevils present. Treatment thresholds are in the 1 to 2 weevils per stem range.

Beef Breeding Season Approaches

Dale Blasi, Extension Beef Specialist offers these tips as the breeding season is beginning or continuing for many operations.

Several estrus synchronization procedures have been developed. To determine the correct synchronization program to use, consider the following: age of females (yearling replacement heifers vs. cows), commitment of time and efforts for heat detection, potential number of females that are anestrous (days post-partum, body condition, calving difficulty), labor availability, and the return on investment for total commitment to the breeding program.

Be certain to handle semen properly and use correct AI techniques to maximize fertility. Your natural service bulls should have body condition, eyes, feet, legs and reproductive parts closely monitored during the breeding season and resolve any problems immediately. And all bulls should have passed a breeding soundness examination prior to turnout.

It's also a good time to begin your calf preconditioning program. Vaccination, castration and parasite control at a young age will decrease stress at weaning time. This is a time to add value to the calf crop. Implanting calves older than 60 days of age will increase weaning weight. Maintain records that will verify calving season, health programs, and management practices.

2015 Sustainability Fair

Sustainability Fair will be on April 25th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Flint Hills Technical College. This will also be the kick-off of the outdoor season for the Farmer's Market. Just like last year, there will be horticulture related seminars for the public to attend. The focus of the Sustainability Fair this year will be water.

All the seminars and the workshop will focus on water and water conservation as well. The seminars will consist of xeriscaping and water-wise plants. This year there will be a workshop on constructing a rain barrel. Be watching the Emporia Gazette and the Flint Hills Shopper or listening to KVOE for the complete schedule of the seminars and workshop.

Keep Mower Blades Sharp

With mowing season starting, we need to remember to keep the blades sharp on our lawn mowers. Dull blades will cause a whitish cast on our lawns. A dull blade does not cleanly cut the blade of grass; instead it shreds the end of the leaf blade. The whitish cast starts to appear as the shredded ends of the grass blade starts to dry out. A sharp mower blade is more important as the turf starts putting up the seed heads. Seed head stems are much tougher than the grass blades and more likely to shred. Under normal use, lawn mower blades should be sharpened every 10 hours of use.

Soil Testing

Before amending your soils or adding fertilizer before planting it is a good idea to have a soil test done. A soil test helps us understand what the pH, phosphorus, and potassium levels already are. If these levels are within recommended ranges for your crops, then we only recommend fertilizers with nitrogen. We will also inform you to be cautious on the amount of organic matter, peat moss and some other amendment you want to add to the soil as they can affect the pH level. The only element we normally do not test for is nitrogen. Nitrogen is easily leached out of the soil during watering or rain events. When giving soil recommendations we generally do recommend a nitrogen fertilizer.

Here are a few tips on collecting soil samples. If you follow these tips, then the results will be more representative of the overall area. When taking the samples, make sure that you are collecting soil to a depth of 8 to 12 inches. This is to give a more representative sample in the roots zone. Take at least 10 samples from the area. Combine these samples in a clean bucket and mix them together. After mixing the samples together, select about a pint of soil and place it in a zip top container and bring it into the Extension Office to be sent off for testing. If you are doing more than one area, make sure to label your samples.

When you bring the samples into the office, you fill out a form that gives some background information about the garden plot, landscape bed or lawn to help with recommendations when the results come back. Once the office obtains the results, you will then receive the results with recommendations for your area.

Moving Houseplants Outside for Summer

It is often helpful to set many houseplants outside for the summer so they can recover from the low light levels endured during the winter months. As soon as night temperatures stay consistently above 55 degrees F, houseplants can be moved to their summer home. Choose a spot that has dappled shade, is protected from the wind and is close to water. A porch or a spot that receives shade from trees or buildings will work well. Putting houseplants in full sun will cause the leaves to photo-oxidize or sunburn because the leaves have become adapted to low light levels inside the house. Where possible, sink the pots into the ground to help moderate root temperatures and reduce watering frequency.

If you have a number of plants, dig a trench 6 to 8 inches deep (or deeper if you have larger pots) and long enough to accommodate all of your plants without crowding. Place peat moss under and around the pots. Peat moss holds water, helps keep the pots cool and reduces evaporation from clay pots. About every two weeks, rotate the pots a quarter turn to break off any roots that have penetrated the peat moss surrounding the pot and to equalize the light received on all sides of the pot. Water as needed. If the potting soil is dry a half-inch deep in the pot, it is time to water.

Pine Wilt

Pine wilt is a disease that has been around for years. It was first discovered in the United States in Columbia, Missouri back in 1979. Since that time it has been moving westward and wreaking havoc on mainly Scots pine, Austrian and occasionally white pine. Pine wilt is transmitted by the pinewood nematode that is carried pine tree to pine tree by the bark beetle known as the pine sawyer beetle.

Here in Kansas, the symptoms of pine wilt usually appear from August through December. The trees will wilt and die rapidly within a short period of time. The needles of affected trees will turn yellow/brown and remain attached to the tree. Early stages of the disease may be subtle and may vary. Transpiration of the foliage will decrease three to four weeks after infestation happens by the nematode. Needles will initially show a light grayish-green discoloration before turning yellow and brown. The disease may progress either uniformly through the tree or branch by branch.

If you have a pine tree that has died due to pine wilt, it is best to get the tree removed as soon as possible. Trees that need to be removed must be cut to the ground level. It is best if there is no stump left as this will help prevent further spread of the nematodes to other trees. Trees that are cut down should be burned, buried or chipped preferably by May 1.

One issue residents in the Flint Hills region, including Lyon County, do encounter is trying to make sure trees are burned by May 1. In the Flint Hills region there is a burn ban that is placed every year during the month of April. During the month of April only burning for the purpose of range or pasture management and conservation reserve program is allowed.

Planting Easter Lilies Outside

With Easter here comes the traditional sign that we are all familiar with, Easter lilies. Anyone who gardens may hate to throw out Easter lilies after they have finished blooming and the age old question, "Do they grow outside?" comes to mind. The answer is yes they do! Although, Easter lilies are not reliably hardy in Kansas, many gardeners have had success growing them. Here are a few simple rules to follow to have success growing your Easter lilies outside.

1. After the flowers have faded, remove the flower stalk so that energy does not go into making seed.
2. Keep the plant inside until the danger of frost is past. Keep soil moist but never waterlogged. Don't allow water to sit in the tray. Continue to fertilize.
3. The pot can be moved outside when frost is no longer a concern. Sinking the pot into the soil up to the brim and placing in dappled shade will help reduce watering. Continue to water and fertilize until the top growth dies down.
4. Choose a sunny, well-drained spot for planting. Good drainage is vital for lilies and so the addition of organic matter is usually necessary for most soils. Till or dig the soil 6 inches deep and add 3 inches of peat moss. Mix the soil and peat moss together. This will form a berm that should drain very well.
5. Plant the bulbs 6 inches deep and 12 to 18 inches apart and water in well. Mulch to conserve moisture. New growth may appear later in the summer or the plant may stay dormant until the following spring.
6. Cover the plants in the fall after the foliage has died down with straw, pine needles, wood chips or other types of mulch to help protect the plant over winter. Use 4 inches of straw or 3 inches of any of the other materials.
7. Uncover the plants in the spring to allow new growth to appear and fertilize according to soil test.



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Family & Consumer Sciences

President's Council

Friday April 3rd (Noon)

Extension Office Meeting Room



As I sit down to write this newsletter we have 105 teams registered in Lyon County. That is about 650 people in our community. Great Job! We had our kick off on March 17th at the Fairgrounds. A big **Thank you** goes to the Community Units for helping with setup/clean up and serving of the food during kick-off. Thank you also to Barb Rourk of Emporia Recreation Commission and our Local Subway Restaurants for helping with our kick-off party. Watch for more information in an email about the Walk Abouts during Walk Kansas. I am putting a list together after kick off.

Fat Bucks Buffet May 7th 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Bowyer Building on Fairgrounds



Fat Bucks is a fun way to introduce the concepts involved in controlling the fat content of the diet by making educated food choices. Come and learn to measure the amount of fat in the food that we eat. We will be having a build your own sandwich bar for demonstration purposes. **RSVP by April 30th.**

The Sustainable American Dinner Plate

March 31st 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.
 Emporia Rec Center Meeting Room



Don't wait for the government or big food companies to solve the world's sustainability problems. Consumer choices help shape the food supply. People — you, for example — can make many small changes over time. Starting with at least one today, you can make a big difference to maximize health (how you look and feel) for yourself, your children, their children, and so on; save money; increase the well-being of the environment; and improve the vitality of local communities (increase their food production capacity and food security).

Nutty Nibbles April 7th, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Rec Center Meeting Room



Nuts can be a beneficial and tasty addition to any diet. They are a good source of fiber and protein, plus many vitamins and minerals. Eating nuts in moderation can even help keep your heart healthy. Scientific evidence suggests that eating 1.5 ounces per day of most nuts (almonds, hazelnuts, peanuts, pecans, pistachios and walnuts) may reduce the risk of coronary heart disease. **RSVP by April 1st.**

Bodies in Motion April 21st 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Rec Center Meeting Room

Let's work on creating time for activity. Choosing an activity that you enjoy is one of the keys to lifetime health. Come and explore the many options that exist, as we introduce you to some new and exciting possibilities. Let's get you moving and keep you moving. **RSVP by April 17th.**

Spotlight at the 2015 Fair

Appetizers and Salsa will be the spotlight event this year. Start trying recipes now to enter at the fair. **Salsa categories** will include: Fruit, Tomato Based, Extra Spicy

Appetizers: Meat, Veggie, and Fruit

Community Service Project at 2015 Lyon County Fair

Lap quilts will be the service project for community organizations. The last few years we have done pillow cases and totes; for a new take on community service. Lap quilts should measure 42 inches on the diagonal. Lap quilts don't need to be quilted. Blankets and or quilts can be tied, quilted or can be just a plain blanket. We will be giving them to nursing homes and law enforcement this year. If you have more questions give me a call at the Extension Office. We will enter them on Saturday morning of Open Class judging. You may drop them off at the office any time. We will find a way to display them at the fair. I am not sure the ceiling will still be an option.

Volunteers Needed:

Keep it a Safe Summer (KISS) May 21st

KISS will be making a return on Thursday May 21st at the Flint Hills Mall. Volunteers are needed to help with registration, prize table, extra booth help, food and many more. Last year this event drew about 2500 people. We will need about 40 adult or older teen (16 and older)

Fair Volunteers Needed:

We have had several volunteers retire over the last few years. We are in need of some generals and superintendents.

Unit Tour Planned

June 25th

8:00 a.m. to Approx. 5:00 p.m.

We will visit Manhattan. Our first stop of the day will be the K-State Gardens. The end of June we should see Roses, Crape Myrtle, Columbine, yarrow, Kniphopia, daylilies, panicle hydrangeas, big leaf hydrangeas, caryopteris, abelia, buddleia. The Insect Zoo will be our next stop while in the gardens.

Lunch: Either Bourbon and Bakery, Little Apple Brewery, Wildcat Spirit many more to choose from.

The Manhattan Discovery Center. The rotating display is In the Dark.

Call Hall Ice Cream and trip home.

Cost per person \$25.00 and lunch will be on your own. We must have a minimum of 7 sign up to make the trip happen. RSVP by June 5th.

National Festival of Breads

MANHATTAN, Kan. – After months of analyzing recipes, mixing, kneading, baking and tasting, a panel of judges has selected the recipes that will be represented in the fourth National Festival of Breads, sponsored by King Arthur Flour®, Red Star Yeast® and Kansas Wheat. The baking competition will be held June 13, in Manhattan, Kansas.

Cindy Falk, nutrition educator for Kansas Wheat and chairwoman of the National Festival of Breads, said the eight adult finalists and one youth champion represent an array of trends and flavor profiles.

"Finalists in the 2015 National Festival of Breads have risen to the challenge of developing creative, flavorful recipes that highlight some of the latest trends in baking," Falk said. "We look forward to meeting these contestants in Kansas this summer when they participate in the National Festival of Breads."

Eight adult finalists and one youth champion have been named for the biennial National Festival of Breads, the nation's only national amateur bread-baking competition. They are from all over the United States, from Maine to California. Finalists, their hometowns and the names of their recipes follow:



Ethnic: Felice Bogus- Raleigh, North Carolina *Chickpea-Stuffed Aleppo Flatbreads*
Mary Hawkes- Prescott, Arizona *Cheddar 'N' Chilies Accordion Bread*

Rolls:

Merry Graham- Newhall, California
Curry & Chia Onion Buns
Amy Meiers- Santa Rosa, California
Rosemary Cardamom Twisters

Whole Grains:

Ronna Farley- Rockville, Maryland
Crunchy-Topped Coconut Almond Bread
Patrice Hurd- Bemidji, Minnesota
Peppered Parmesan Veggie Bread

Time Saving and Simple:

Jane Fry- Elk Falls, Kansas
Chocolate Swirl Loaves
Lisa Keys- Kennett Square, Pennsylvania
Smokehouse Cranberry Cheese Bread

Youth Category

Ellie Sapat- Falmouth, Maine
Wild Maine Healthy Blueberry Banana Nut Bread

Adult contestants will travel to Manhattan, Kan., from June 11-14, to bake their creations on June 13, at the National Festival of Breads, sponsored by King Arthur Flour®, Red Star Yeast® and Kansas Wheat. While in Kansas, contestants will participate in a host of additional activities, including a Wheat Harvest Tour with stops at a wheat farm, grain elevator and flour mill.

The grand prize winner will receive a cash prize of \$2,500, plus a year's supply of Red Star Yeast® and an expense-paid trip to the King Arthur Flour Baking Education Center in Norwich, Vermont.

Return Service Requested

Check out our website at
www.lyon.ksu.edu

April

- 03 FCS President's Council, noon, EMR
- 06 Lawn Mower Safety, 9 am-2 pm, PrairieLand Partners
- 06 Master Gardener Meeting, noon, EMR
- 06 Ambassadors Meeting, 6 pm, EMR
- 06 4-H Council Meeting, 7 pm, EMR
- 07 Nutty Nibbles, 10 am & 7 pm, Rec Center Meeting Room
- 07 Archery Safety Meeting, 6:30 pm, Holland property
- 11 Hop To It Rabbit Club Spring Show, North Lyon County Community Center, Allen
- 12 4-H Woodworking Meeting, 2 pm, EMR
- 12 Archery Safety Meeting, 6:30 pm, Holland property
- 15 VIP Training, 6 pm, EMR
- 16 Hop To It Rabbit Club Meeting, 7 pm, EMR
- 18 4-H Fiber Arts Meeting, 9:30 am-noon, EMR
- 19 Poultry Club Meeting, 1 pm, EMR
- 21 Cloverbuds, 6 pm, EMR
- 21 Bodies in Motion, 10 am & 6:30 pm, Rec Center Mtg. Room
- 23 Muzzleloading Safety Meeting, 7 pm, EMR
- 25 Swine, Sheep, Meat Goat, Bucket Calf Tagging, 8-10 am, Fairgrounds
- 28 Rawhide Wranglers, 6 pm, EMR
- 29 Swine, Sheep, Meat Goat, Bucket Calf Tagging, 6-8 pm, Fairgrounds
- 30 Small Bore Pistol & Rifle Safety Meeting, 7 pm, EMR

May

- 01 KJLS & KSF Steer Nominations Due
- 01 4-H Drop/Add Deadline for projects
- 01 Horse & Dog ID's & Breeding Animal Registration Due
- 2-3 Gary Fuller Spring Classic, Fairgrounds
- 04 Master Gardener Meeting, 5:15 pm, Emporia Presb. Church, West Campus
- 04 Ambassadors Meeting, 6 pm, EMR
- 04 4-H Council Meeting, 7 pm, EMR
- 05 Shotgun Safety Meeting, 7 pm, EMR
- 06 Petting Zoo, Fairgrounds, 9 am-3 pm, Fairgrounds
- 06 New Family Meeting, 6:30 pm, EMR
- 07 Walk Kansas Fat Bucks Buffet, 11:30 am-1:30 pm, BCB
- 07 Shotgun Safety Meeting, 7 pm, EMR
- 08 Camp counselor applications and camp registration and deposit due
- 09 Walk Kansas ends
- 17 Poultry Club Meeting, 1 pm, EMR
- 19 Cloverbuds, 6 pm, EMR
- 21 Keep it a Safe Summer (KISS)
- 21 Hop To It Rabbit Club Meeting, 7 pm, EMR
- 24 4-H Electric Meeting, 2 pm, EMR
- 25 Memorial Day – Extension Office Closed
- 26 Rawhide Wranglers, 6 pm, EMR
- 26-29 Discovery Days, K-State Campus

AB = Anderson Building
BCB = Bowyer Community Building
EMR = Extension Meeting Room