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Lyon County

K-State Research and Extension News

*“Knowledge
for Life”*

April

&

May, 2016

**Lyon County
Extension Office**

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Gary Fuller Spring Classic

On the Lyon County Fairgrounds



May 7-8, 2016, Lyon County Fairgrounds, Emporia, KS

Pre-Entries due April 29 • \$15 per head

\$25 per head after April 29

SCHEDULE:

Saturday, May 7 — sheep, goats and beef

9:00-9:30 a.m.

Sheep Weigh-in/Breeding Check-in

10:00-10:30 a.m.

Meat Goat Weigh-in/Breeding Check-in

10:30 a.m.

Sheep Show

12:00 p.m.

Goat Show (or 30 minutes after Sheep Show)

3:00-4:30 p.m.

Market Beef weigh-in & breeding heifer check-in

4:00 p.m.

Bucket Calf Check-in

4:15 p.m.

Bucket Calf Show

5:30 p.m.

Beef Show — show order: heifers, showmanship,
Lyon County only class, followed by market

★ We host a no-fit show — no paint/no adhesive ★

Sunday, May 8 — swine

7-8:30 a.m.

Scales Open (exhibitors weigh own hogs)

9:00 a.m.

Swine Show — beginning with showmanship

The Bluestem Farm & Ranch Supply Prize Trailer will be available for awards.
4-Hers exhibiting in the Lyon County only classes and bucket calf will receive a
commemorative bucket!

Champion prospect market hog will receive a Gary Fuller Spring Classic buckle!
All other prospect market grand champions and reserve grand champions will
receive embroidered chairs!

Open to 4-H/FFA youth ages 7 to 18 (4-H age) exhibiting sheep, meat goats,
market steers and heifers, breeding heifers, bucket calves and swine

Entry forms available online at www.lyon.ksu.edu

For More information contact, Lyon County Extension Office at (620) 341-3220.



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KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION AND COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE



The Clover Connection



It's Show Time

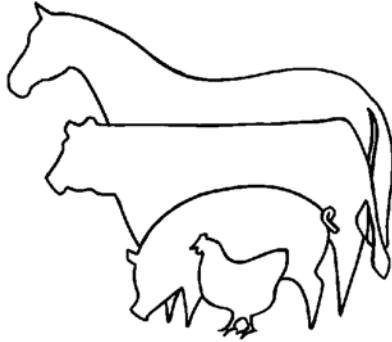
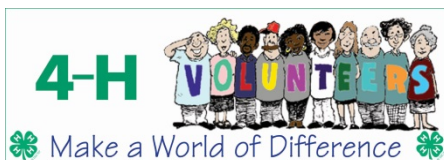
Information on upcoming livestock shows is steadily flowing into the Extension office. Don't forget to come in and check out the green notebook on Debbie's desk for show flyers. We collect copies of all the show information we receive as well as some information on other projects that there isn't room 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 7-8 at the Fairgrounds. Species will include sheep, meat goats, bucket calves, beef and swine. As an added incentive for Lyon County 4-Hers, a special commemorative bucket will be awarded to each Lyon County 4-Her for each species that he or she exhibits in the Lyon County Only class or a Lyon County 4-Her exhibiting a bucket calf at the spring show courtesy of the Gary Fuller Memorial Fund. 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 29.

Volunteer Training and Registration (VIP)

A Volunteer Training will be hosted April 13 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 8 to the Extension Office at 341-3220. 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.



Fair Sponsors

Each year Debbie Van Sickle works to contact sponsors for trophies and awards for 4-H events at the Lyon County Fair. We truly appreciate the longtime support of many divisions and areas of 4-H. As new projects or various classes change, we often need additional sponsors. If you or someone you know is interested in sponsoring an award, please contact Debbie Van Sickle at (620) 341-3220.

2016 4-H Fair Notes

The 2016 Lyon County Fair is set for Aug. 4-13. The Friends of 4-H Picnic will kick off 4-H related activities on July 28 with other various pre-fair judging activities July 29-July 31 and Aug. 4. Livestock will be required to be in place on the fairgrounds Aug. 5 and released Aug. 9. The Anderson Building will be released on Aug. 10. The 4-H Diner will be open through Aug. 13.

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. 5 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.

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. May 1 is a Sunday. The black drop box on the east side of the Extension Office will be checked first thing May 2. **No IDs brought by the office after the drop box is checked will be accepted on Monday, May 2.**

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, 2016. 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, 2016. 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, 2016, 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, 2016. 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, 2016. 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, 2016, 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 4, and May 2, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. The Council meetings will be held in the meeting room at the Extension Office.

Camp Registration

The Sunny Hills 4-H Camp will be June 24-27, 2016. 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 13. 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 24-27, 2016. Counselors will attend training on June 23. Applications will be due by 5:00 p.m. on May 13. Absolutely no late applications will be accepted, so don't wait until the last minute. If you have any questions, contact the Extension Office.

Shooting Sports Safety Meetings

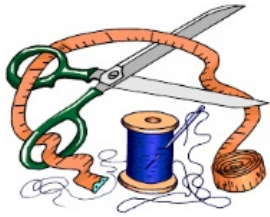
4-Hers properly enrolled for the 2016 summer shooting sports disciplines must attend safety meetings. Small bore, pistol and rifle safety meeting is scheduled for April 12 at 7 p.m. at the Extension Office Meeting Room. The muzzle loading safety meeting is scheduled for April 28 at 6 p.m. at the Extension Office Meeting Room. If you were not enrolled for the summer shooting sports disciplines by Dec. 1, 2015, you will not be able to participate in this year's program. Please be sure to reenroll in 4-H early so you do not miss opportunities like 4-H shooting sports.

State 4-H Sewing Camp

Lyon County 4-Hers are encouraged to be a part of the 5th annual State 4-H Sewing Camp! It will be hosted on the K-State Campus in Manhattan and registration fees are \$195 for 4-Hers. There are options for adults to attend with their 4-Hers for \$125 full-time or part-time adult for \$12. Check out the 4-H events registration tab on the Kansas 4-H website at www.kansas4h.org. Registration is due by May 1.

This year's Specialty Camp is designed for youth that have mastered basic sewing skills and are ready to challenge themselves to learn new and more advanced skills. The camp offers 4-H members and their friends an opportunity to learn and build confidence in the Clothing and Textiles project.

Participants should all know the basics with pattern layout/cutting and basic sewing machine operation.



Participants will choose their project when they arrive on campus. There will be time for a service learning opportunity again this year and a creative challenge led by Central KS District 4-H member and

Project Runway Junior Premier Season participant, Jaxson Metzler.

All fabrics, supplies and equipment will be provided for youth to construct their project. Youth only need to pack comfortable clothing, **closed toe shoes**, and personal toiletries. All bedding will be provided by the K-State Manhattan residence halls.

2016 4-H Campference!

Campference is scheduled for June 24-27, 2016 at Rock Springs 4-H Center, near Junction City, Kan. Campference is open to any youth ages 12 to 14, before January 1, 2016.

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 2016

Discovery Days 2016 is scheduled for May 30-June 3, 2016 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 \$215. The registration fee is due to the Extension Office by May 1. Don't delay, classes are filled on a first come, first serve basis.



Hop to It Rabbit Club News

4-Hers who plan to show meat pens for the 2016 Lyon County Fair should be certain litters are born by May 30. Breeding should take place by May 1 to make them the correct age for fair time.

The club's regular monthly meeting are held the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Anderson Building 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 26 and May 24 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 11 and June 12 on the Lyon County Fairgrounds.

Petting Zoo

The 4-H Petting Zoo will be Wednesday, May 4 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 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 Wednesday, April 27 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 30 from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.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 back in Emporia on June 30 at the Anderson Building. 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 16.

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

CHECKLIST FOR EXCELLENCE IN A 4-H PROJECT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Leaders are to take this checklist into the Extension Office along with the other award applications by September 1. Every 4-H member that takes a record book should include this checklist. This checklist should include ONLY 4-H activities, NOT school activities.

Junior: 7-12 years Must answer "YES" to questions 1 through 3.
 Intermediate: 9-13 years Must answer "YES" to questions 1 through 3 and "YES" to two of the remaining questions.
 Senior: 14-19 years Must answer "YES" to questions 1 through 1 and "YES" to three of the remaining questions.

NAME: _____ AGE BY JANUARY 1st: _____

PROJECT AREA: _____ DATE: _____

PARENT'S SIGNATURE: _____ 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?
 Yes: _____ No: _____

YES NO 2. Presented at least one talk about the project? (i.e., County Club Day, Club/Project Meeting, Club Day, Fair, etc.)
 Yes: _____ No: _____

YES NO 3. Took in a completed record book?
 Yes: _____ No: _____

YES NO 4. Attended at least one-half of your club's regularly scheduled meetings?
 (How many members held _____ How many attended _____)

YES NO 5. Exhibited or participated at the Lyon County Fair? If so, which exhibit is submitted or poster? List exhibit: _____

YES NO 6. Participated as a county, county, county, or state 4-H event related to this project (Judging, Club Day, Spring Show, etc.) List event: _____

YES NO 7. Taken part in a project team or field trip? List event: _____

YES NO 8. Served as a Fair Judge Representative? List fair division/project area: _____

YES NO 9. Served as an Assistant Project Leader at your club for the respective project? List name of project leader you served: _____

YES NO 10. Communicated to membership related to this project? _____

Leader's Initials: _____

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 the Extension office.

Food Judge's Training

If you want to learn more and have an interest in becoming a 4-H foods judge, training sites and dates have been set across the state. The following locations are hosting Food Judge's Trainings. These trainings will cover judging for the Foods & Nutrition project and Food Preservation project. Please let your judge's know about these trainings and encourage them and any other volunteers interested in judging to attend. Foods leaders and 4-H members are also welcome to attend.

Please contact the following host locations for registration and information:

April 5 - Hutchinson, contact Jennifer Schroeder, jenj@ksu.edu, 620-662-2371

April 14 - Olathe, contact Crystal Futrell, crystal.futrell@jocogov.org, 913-715-7000

April 19 - El Dorado, contact Barb Roths, broths@ksu.edu, 316-321-9660

April 23 - Paola, contact Karla Hightower, khightow@ksu.edu, 913-294-4306

May 18 - Salina, contact Leah Robinson, lmrobins@ksu.edu, 785-392-2147

Regional Club Day Results

Congratulations to all the Lyon County 4-Hers who participated in the Regional 4-H Club Day on March 19 in Madison. In junior project talks, Bethany DeDonder and Cordon Olson both received alternate top blues. Jonas Kern and McKinley Senft received blues for their junior demonstrations, while seniors Kyle Pedersen and Karlee Wigton earned blues for demonstrations as well. Madelynne Douglas earned a red for her public speaking and a top blue for her novelty. In gavel games, the Happy Harvesters team of Viola Fritts, Camille Steffes, Lauryn Broyles and Taylor Cole earned alternate top blue, and the senior team of Maddie Simmons, Kaman Simmons, Will Duggan and Ashlyn Alingh of Logan Avenue earned a red. In vocal music, Aubrey Jenkins earned a top blue in the senior solo and Auralee Pritchard received alternate top blue in the junior solo. The McAllister family received a red for their vocal ensemble and a top blue for their instrumental ensemble. Karis McAllister earned an alternate top blue for junior instrumental solo and Mallory Plankinton earned a blue in the senior division. Aubrey Jenkins earned a blue on her reading and Cloverleaf 4-H Club earned a top blue on their skit. Wyatt Bolen, Taylor Sullivan, Dakota Orender and Cheyenne Ewing earned alternate top blue for their dance routine.



Lyon County Extension Agent
Brian Rees
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Agriculture and Natural Resources

April-May 2016

Burning and Burn Permits for 2016

As warm as it has been so far this winter and spring, we have already seen some burning of native rangeland taking place in Lyon and neighboring counties. 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.

The rainfall late last summer and fall allowed for regrowth on the grasslands, providing a good fuel load for fires this spring. And, winter has been drier than average so this fuel is very dry at this time. The strong, 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. The best way to avoid more restrictions on burning 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 Consolidated Dispatch (343-4225) 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 2016-17, meaning you need a new permit this year and it's good next year too!

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 have been 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!

Cold weather impacts on wheat

On March 17, I received the following information from SE Area Agronomy Specialist Doug Shoup. "Historically we tend to joint in the southern tier of counties in KS around the 20th of March. This year when I visited our plots in Winfield on March 8th, the head was already 3" above the ground. Josh, Jeri, and Gretchen (agents in the southern tier of counties) started tracking soil temperatures and we are very similar to 2012 when we were cutting a lot of wheat in May. So I think we are in for an early harvest this year.

With the early wheat, I'm more concerned with a freeze in April. The wheat I have been looking at this week is past the F7 stage and I am guessing there will be flag leaves visible in a couple weeks. That is bad for any light freezes that might occur in April.

For some good news: With the flag leaf emergence possibly occurring in two weeks, it might be a good opportunity to time your fungicide application because we are already finding stripe rust in LB, MG, and SU counties. It appears they are actively producing spores."

Again, this was as of March 17 with COLD temps in the forecast. KSU extension will try to keep you updated on the progression of the disease and potential freeze damage, so be on the lookout for those notices.

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, Oklahoma and the southern tier of counties in Kansas of stripe rust on wheat as early as March 17 (Montgomery, Labette and Sumner Counties). Leaf rust and stripe rust are persistent and building and the strong southerly winds are pushing things this direction. 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. Leaf rust prefers warmer temps, while stripe rust is favored with 30-40° temps. We'll need to watch the weather and disease development and plan for treatment accordingly.

Entomologist Jeff Whitworth has seen alfalfa weevils hatched and 1st and 2nd instars (small and medium-sized larva) feeding. Infestation levels were from 30-100%. With the warm temperatures forecast, if we can get a few days calm enough to spray and your fields are at least 30% infested, it may be time to consider an insecticide application. 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.

Again, regardless of the crop or potential issue, be certain to scout the entire field and know what you are attempting to control. We need to use our pesticide control measures effectively to be able to utilize them for years into the future. Let's not treat just because all the neighbors are – they might just be wrong!

Pesticides on Wheat – Timing is Critical

The warm temperatures during most of the winter have allowed the wheat to start to grow (hopefully it wasn't set back too much with cold temps in mid-March). Along with the wheat, many cool season weed species have been growing as well and can be controlled with herbicides. But use caution when using herbicides – not only to timing on the wheat crop but also with potential crops following and any pre-harvest intervals.

By the time this newsletter reaches you, most of the local wheat should be jointed with the growing point well above the ground. 2,4-D is labeled up to boot stage, but is safest between full tiller and jointing. Application

after jointing may cause some irregular growth patterns, but yields are generally not significantly affected.

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. Neither 2,4-D or MCPA 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.

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.

And don't forget, if you are considering a fungicide application, to pay attention to target disease, plant growth stage for application timing, and pre-harvest restrictions to avoid any issues with grain harvest.

Sugarcane Aphids – Manhattan already?

It appears the warm winter and early spring may be allowing another potential issue to be here sooner than normal. In fact, sugarcane aphids have been identified in the greenhouses at K-State already this year, thanks to some winter storms and warm weather. If you are planning on sorghum this year, read <http://blogs.k-state.edu/kansasbugs/2016/03/17/sugarcane-aphid-already-arriving-in-kansas/>.

Beef Breeding Season Approaches

Extension Beef Specialist Dale Blasi offers these tips as the breeding season starts for many operations. To determine the correct synchronization program to use for AI, consider the age of females (yearling replacement heifers vs. cows), commitment of time and effort for heat detection, potential number of females that are anestrus (days post-partum, body condition, calving difficulty), labor availability, and the return on investment to the breeding program. Remember that 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. Maintain records that will verify calving season, health programs, and management practices.

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.

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.

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.

Lawn Calendar for Cool Season Grasses

The following suggestions are for cool-season grasses such as Kentucky bluegrass or tall fescue. Zoysiagrass, bermudagrass and buffalograss are warm-season grasses and require a different maintenance regime. A warm-season grass calendar will be covered in a later newsletter.

March

Spot treat broadleaf weeds if necessary. Treat on a day that is 50 degrees or warmer. Rain or irrigation within 24 hours of application will reduce effectiveness.

April

Apply crabgrass preventer when redbud trees are in full bloom (usually in April). Preventer needs to be watered in before it will start to work. Remember

that a good, thick lawn is the best weed prevention and may be all that is needed.

May

Fertilize with a slow-release fertilizer if you water your lawn or if you receive enough rainfall that your turf normally doesn't go drought-dormant during the summer. If there are broadleaf weeds, spot treat with a spray or use a fertilizer that includes a weed killer. Rain or irrigation within 24 hours of application will reduce effectiveness of the weed killer, but the fertilizer needs to be watered in. If you are using a product that has both fertilizer and weed killer, wait 24 hours after application before watering it in.

June - Mid-July

Apply second round of crabgrass preventer by June 15 – unless you have used Dimension (dithiopyr) or Barricade (proflam) for the April application. These two products normally provide season-long control with a single application. Remember to water it in. If grubs have been a problem in the past, apply a product containing "Merit" or "Mach 2" during the first half of July. This works as a grub preventer. It must be watered in before it becomes active.

Late-July through August

If you see grub damage, apply a grub killer that contains Dylox. Merit and Mach 2 are grub preventers and may not be effective on late instar grubs. The grub killer containing Dylox must be watered in within 24 hours or effectiveness drops.

September

Fertilize around Labor Day. This is the most important fertilization of the year. Make sure to water fertilizer in.

November

Fertilize. This fertilizer is taken up by the roots but is not used until the following spring. Make sure to water fertilizer in. Spray for broadleaf weeds even if they are small. Broadleaf weeds are much easier to control in the fall than in the spring. Spray on a day that is at least 50 degrees. Rain or irrigation within 24 hours reduces effectiveness. Use label rates for all products!



Lyon County Extension Agent
Rhonda Gordon
620-341-3220



Family & Consumer Sciences

President's Council

Friday April 1st (Noon)

Friday May 6th (Noon)

Extension Office Meeting Room

Everyone is welcome to attend any classes that I teach. I would encourage 4-H project leaders to bring their clubs to the classes as a project meeting. If 4-Hers would like to attend individually that is great. If a 4-Her is under the age of 14 they must attend with an adult. I am offering several classes this spring as part of Walk Kansas that would be great lessons for everyone.



Walk Kansas April 3rd – May 28th, 2016

Walk Kansas is an opportunity to involve your entire family and community – those that live close to you and even those at a distance. Family and friends from other communities, states and countries can participate. This is a chance to promote healthy lifestyle habits to people of all ages throughout the community.

Walk Kansas Registration fees will include a t-shirt, Kick-Off party, fat bucks buffet, Poker Walks, Bodies in Motion Part 3, Gluten and Your Gut, Simple Seasonal Meals.

Poker Walks will take place every Tuesday from 11:30 to 1 at the C of E Park during Walk Kansas.

Kick-off party at the Anderson Building on the Fairgrounds Sunday April 3rd from 2-4 p.m. We have had many requests for a weekend kick off for more team members to attend. Here is your chance. There will be food, fun and prizes. **RSVP by March 25th** for the Kick-off Party to lycoext@ksu.edu.

Fat Bucks Buffet May 10th 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Anderson Building on Fairgrounds 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. This event is underwritten by Subway "Eat Fresh" **RSVP by April 29th.**



Gluten and Your Gut

April 5th

10 a.m. & 7 p.m.

Anderson Building

Fairgrounds

Gluten, the protein found in wheat, barley, rye, and some related grains, such as spelt, kamut, and triticale (a cross between wheat and rye), has long been valued by consumers and bakers for the elastic, chewy properties it provides breads and other baked products. Recently, gluten has rocketed to the top of nutrition and diet discussions, and "gluten-free" claims can be found on labels of hundreds of foods in grocery stores and highlighted on menus of fast food restaurants as well as fine dining establishments. What is gluten, and what is at the base of the gluten-free trend that has swept the United States?

Bodies in Motion

April 19th 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.



Simple Seasonal Meals

May 3rd 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Anderson Building Fairgrounds

Every fruit or vegetable grown in the home garden reaches its peak at a certain time. Harvesting and eating produce at its peak provides many benefits. The color, flavor, texture, and nutritional value increase as produce ripens. And eating seasonally costs less during the normal growing seasons. By choosing fruits and vegetables in season you get all of the benefits — food that tastes good, is good for you, and is reasonably priced.

The Choose MyPlate method for healthy eating stresses that half of your plate should be filled with fruits and vegetables. Fruits and vegetables are chock full of nutrients. The colors of fruits and vegetables are

indicators of phytochemicals — chemicals such as lycopene, lutein, and quercetin — that plants produce. These chemicals are studied for their health benefits and the message is clear — eating a variety of colors of fruits and vegetables is an easy way to enjoy the goodness of the wide array of nutrients while contributing to a longer, healthier life.

Kids Cooking Camp (KidsaCookin')

June 9 and 10 RSVP by June 2nd

July 20 and 21 RSVP by July 13th

**2 – 5 p.m. at the Lyon County Extension Office
(pickup child up by 5:15)**

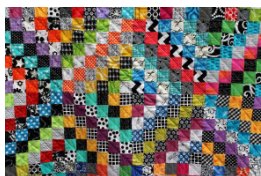
This two day camp is aimed at children 3rd grade complete to 5th grade. They will learn the art of menu planning, grocery shopping, and fun cooking skills to make complete meals for their family. Each student will go home with a meal that feeds 4-5 people each day. Sample menus could include Picky Eater Pasta, Garden Salad, Easy Bread Sticks, Peach Cobbler or Fun with Meat Balls. How many different ways can you serve meatballs? Food Safety, the art of freezing meals will also be covered during camp. We must have at least 5 people signed up to have class with a maximum of 12 people. A small registration fee of \$5.00 must be paid to hold your spot. Call 341-3220 for more information. You can also register through the Emporia Recreation Center.

Spotlight at the 2016 Fair

Ribs and Side Dishes will be the spotlight event this year. Start trying recipes now to enter at the fair.



What are your favorite ribs? Dry Rub? Sauce?
What are your favorite sides? Broccoli Salad? Potato Salad? Coleslaw? Pecan Pie? Baked Beans? The list goes on and on.



Community Service Project at 2016 Lyon County Fair

Lap quilts will be the service project for community organizations again this year. Lap quilts/blankets should measure 42 inches on the diagonal and do not need to be quilted. Blankets and or quilts can be tied, quilted or just be 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 display them at the fair on the new wire racks as we did last year.

Volunteers Needed:

Keep it a Safe Summer (KISS) May 25st

KISS will be making a return on Wednesday May 25st at the Lyon County Fairgrounds. Volunteers are needed to help with registration, prize table, extra booth help, food and many more. Last year this event drew about 2500 people.

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 Tuesday June 14th 8:00 a.m. to Approx. 5:30 p.m.

We will visit Lindsborg! Come and experience Little Sweden. There are many winners and finalist for the 8 Wonders of Kansas at Lindsborg. We will start our day at Hemslojd (Dala Horse Factory). Then enjoy time strolling Main Street looking into the Art Galleries, Reminiscent Antiques, Brick Street Gallery, or have coffee and pastry at The Old Grind, or the White Peacock.

Lunch: Either at the Swedish Crown or Farley's.

Afternoon includes a tour of the historic Bethany Lutheran Church and listening to the hand crafted Tracker organ's 1145 pipes heralding age old music at the hands of a local organist. This will be a guided tour.

Next stop Birger Sandzen Memorial Art Gallery. Then as we load to go home we will make a stop at Coronado Heights. Great photo opportunity!!

Cost per person \$40.00 and lunch is included. We must have a minimum of 7 sign up to make the trip happen. RSVP by June 5th.

"Infuse your life with action. Don't wait for it to happen. Make it happen. Make your own future. Make your own hope. Make your own love. And whatever your beliefs, honor your creator, not by passively waiting for grace to come down from upon high, but by doing what you can to make grace happen... yourself, right now, right down here on Earth." BradleyWhitford

Return Service Requested

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

April

- 01 FCS President's Council, noon, EMR
- 02 4-H Poultry Spring Show, AB
- 03 Walk Kansas Kick-Off, 2 – 4 pm, AB
- 04 Master Gardener Meeting, noon, EMR
- 04 Ambassador Meeting, 6 pm, EMR
- 04 4-H Council Meeting, 7 pm, EMR
- 05 Gluten and Your Gut Class, 10 am & 7 pm, AB
- 12 Small bore, pistol and rifle safety meeting, 7 pm, EMR
- 13 VIP Training, 6 pm, EMR
- 19 Bodies in Motion, 10 am & 6:30 pm, Rec Center
- 19 Cloverbuds, 6 pm, EMR
- 21 Hop To It Rabbit Meeting, 7 pm, AB
- 26 Rawhide Wranglers, 6 pm, EMR
- 27 Swine, Sheep, Meat Goat & Bucket Calf Tagging, 6-8 pm, Fairgrounds
- 28 Muzzle loading safety meeting, 6 pm, EMR
- 30 Swine, Sheep, Meat Goat & Bucket Calf Tagging, 8-10 am, Fairgrounds

May

- 01 KJLS & KSF Steer Nominations Due
- 01 4-H Add/Drop Deadline for projects
- 01 Horse & Dog ID's & Breeding Animal Registration Due
- 02 Master Gardener Meeting, 5:15 pm, AB
- 02 Ambassador Meeting, 6 pm, EMR
- 02 4-H Council Meeting, 7 pm, EMR
- 03 Simple Seasonal Meals, 10 am & 7 pm, AB
- 04 Petting Zoo, 9 am – 2:30 pm, Fairgrounds
- 06 FCS President's Council, noon, EMR
- 7-8 Gary Fuller Spring Classic, Fairgrounds
- 10 Fat Bucks Buffet, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm, AB
- 13 Camp counselor applications & camp registration due
- 15 Poultry Club Meeting, 1 pm, EMR
- 17 Cloverbuds, 6 pm, EMR
- 19 Hop To It Rabbit Club, 7 pm, AB
- 24 Rawhide Wranglers, 6 pm, EMR
- 25 KISS, Fairgrounds
- 30 Memorial Day – Extension Office Closed
- 31-6/3 Discovery Days – K-State Campus

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