

Lyon County

K-STATE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION NEWS

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**October & November
2019**

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Research and Extension

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Enjoy Your Extension Programs!!

Extension Council Elections

October 8th

7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Lyon County Extension Office

Every year Lyon County residents have the chance to elect representatives to guide the programming for Lyon County Extension. Residents are asked to vote for three candidates from each of the four programming areas – Ag and Natural Resources, 4-H and Youth Development, Community Development/Horticulture, and Family and Consumer Sciences. The 12 residents elected will serve a two-year term and join the current Extension Council members to comprise the full 24-member Extension Council. These 24 members will meet at the annual meeting to elect the 2020 Executive Board to guide the overall programming and function for K-State Research and Extension – Lyon County.

Candidates are:

Agriculture and Natural
Resources:

Lisa Fuller, Emporia
Joel Hanson, Emporia
Derek Jackson, Council Grove

Family and Consumer
Sciences:

Shelley Hansley, Emporia
Jenny Losada Ramos, Emporia
Laticia Rust, Hartford

4-H Youth Development:

Janet Harrouff, Emporia
Andrea Karcher, Emporia
Brianna Zweimiller Kirby, Emporia

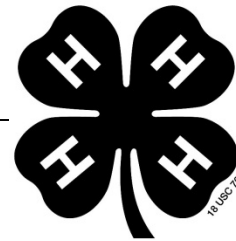
Community Development/
Horticulture:

Jessica Hopkins, Emporia
Alvin “Gene” Huston, Americus
Carolyn Turney, Emporia

New Agent

The staff members at the Lyon County Extension Office look forward to welcoming a new agent in early November! We were fortunate to have many quality candidates with interest in the Lyon County position for the Executive Board to interview and ultimately make their selection.

The Clover Connection



Online 4-H Enrollment Process and State Program Fee

Enrollment for the 2019-2020 4-H year will again be online, but will not begin until October 1. The sooner you get your 4-Hers enrolled the sooner you will be receiving accurate information regarding project meetings and various project related information. Returning 4-H members should be re-enrolled with the original account created for last year's enrollment. It's important that each family enroll their own 4-H members with a valid email address so that we can continue to improve the communications with our 4-H families.

The \$15 Kansas 4-H program fee is an annual requirement for each 4-H member, and must be paid online during enrollment. It will not be collected by the local Lyon County Extension Office so please be prepared with a credit or debit card number or prepared to mail a check to the Kansas 4-H Office in Manhattan. 4-H Cloverbuds ages 5 and 6 do not pay the \$15 Kansas 4-H program fee. There will be documents available on www.lyon.ksu.edu to help walk you through the online enrollment and program fee process.

4-H Sunday

4-H clubs are encouraged to select a regular church service to attend as a club as we will not be hosting a county-wide event this year. 4-H Sunday is "one Sunday during the year set aside to highlight the heart 'H' and the spiritual side of 4-H work. 4-H strives for fourfold development – spiritual, mental, physical and social. Spiritual growth is enhanced as young people take their place in the church and put its teachings into place in everyday living." Watch Facebook for more details. If you haven't "Liked" K-State Research and Extension – Lyon County on Facebook, find us now to keep up to date on information and reminders.

Achievement Celebration

The 2018-2019 Lyon County Achievement Celebration will be held on Sunday, Nov. 3, at the Anderson Building on the fairgrounds. We will begin with the awards program at 3 p.m. The 4-H Council Committee in charge of the celebration is still working on details, so be watching for news from your club leader.

4-H Council

The October Council Meeting will be held on Monday, October 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the Extension Office Meeting Room. 4-H Council will be in the Anderson Building on Monday, Nov. 4 at 6:30 p.m. followed by Officer's Training at 7:00 p.m.

Kansas Youth Leadership Forum

The Kansas Youth Leadership Forum is November 23-24, 2019 at Rock Springs 4-H Center. The Forum is for youth ages 14-18. Registration will be available on the State website. The event will include speakers, workshops, consulting groups and election of the state 4-H Youth Council. Registration deadline is October 15 at an early bird rate of \$200 or before Nov. 1 at the regular rate.

48 Hours of 4-H

Join thousands of 4-Hers and volunteers across Kansas for 48 Hours of 4-H October 12 and 13, 2019. Kansas 4-Hers are encouraged to set up service projects in their local communities to showcase the positive impact 4-Hers can make in just one weekend. Be sure to visit the state 4-H website to find forms to document your service and contribute to the statewide event. Check out www.kansas4-h.org for more information.



National 4-H Week

National 4-H Week will be October 6 - 12, 2019. Clubs are encouraged to inform their communities about 4-H during this week. 4-H members should be prepared to discuss contests, presentation, displays and other ways to promote 4-H during National 4-H week. Hopefully, we can use the week to promote the 4-H program to the best of our ability.

4-H Age

With the new 4-H year coming up, it's important to understand how 4-H age is determined.

- An individual may officially enroll on his/her 7th birthday and after, **but not before**.
- **To participate in the 2020 Lyon County Fair, the 4-H'er must be 7 before January 1, 2020.**
- Young people who turn 19 before January 1, 2020 cannot re-enroll in 4-H for the 2019 -2020 4-H year.

Lyon County 4-H Alumni Association

This group strives to gather former 4-H'ers, leaders and volunteers to support Lyon County 4-H. Alumni are an excellent resource for the 4-H program because they provide the expertise, ideas, and creativity needed to strengthen our program. The group also offers financial support to local 4-H'ers through scholarships and Extension support. Any former 4-H member, community or project leaders, and supporters of the 4-H program are encouraged to join. If you are interested in becoming a part of this organization, or if you have more questions, please contact Barb Burum at (620) 443-5790.

Building Strong Clubs

The **first impression...**clubs have only one chance to make a first impression! Let's hope it's a positive impression. If new members don't feel comfortable with the club, they won't come back. Therefore, as we are getting ready to start the new 4-H year, we encourage your club to make a plan to be a welcoming environment where young people and adults feel accepted. Create a plan for welcoming new members. Some ideas include:

- Assign an adult volunteer or family to serve as the club's *New Family Coordinator* to greet guests and help them understand 4-H.
- During the club meeting, introduce guests and help them understand what is happening.
- After the meeting, follow up with a phone call or email thanking the guests for visiting. Offer to answer any questions they may have.
- If the guests become members, be available to explain and answer questions about 4-H.

Club Financial Reviews due Nov. 15!

All 4-H clubs, including county-wide project clubs like shooting sports and Rawhide Wranglers, will be required to submit Financial Reviews for the 2018-2019 4-H year which is from October 2018 through September 2019. They are due by Nov. 15 to the Extension Office.

Kansas Volunteer Forum

Kansas Volunteer Forum (KVF) will be hosted November 23-24, 2019 at Rock Springs 4-H Center. KVF is for all Kansas 4-H Volunteers and features workshops and information to help volunteers be more effective. This year participants in both forums will register through the

same system. Registration deadline is October 15 at an early bird rate of \$200 or before Nov. 1 at the regular rate.

Fiber Arts Project Meetings

County-wide fiber arts meetings are planned for the 4th Friday of each month beginning in October. All 4-Hers interested in – even if you are not enrolled in – fiber arts are welcome to come learn, get help, have fun and work on projects. The first meeting will be October 25 at 6 p.m. at the Emporia Fiber House located at 926 West 6th Ave. in Emporia.

What: 4-H Fiber Arts Meetings

When: 4th Friday of each month (Oct.-June)
from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Where: Emporia Fiber House,
926 West 6th Ave. in Emporia

Who: Miss Barb and Miss Melinda –
county fiber arts leaders

For more info:

Miss Barb: 343-6283

Miss Melinda: 343-6572

Foods Project Meetings

Arlene Roberts, county-wide foods leader, is making plans for another great year of project learning. Arlene plans hands-on lessons that are hosted at the Extension Office meeting room. The meetings are planned for 4-Hers of all ages. Older 4-Hers are leadership opportunities in assisting with the younger members. Please call the Extension Office at 341-3220 by noon on the Wednesday prior to the Saturday class to RSVP and reserve your 4-Her's spot.

Mark your calendars for these Foods Project Meetings:

November 9

December 7

January 25

February 15

March 28

All Volunteers Need to "Enroll"

The Kansas 4-HOnline System has housed volunteer information for those who have created accounts. Many of our volunteers have 4-H family accounts, and the volunteer(s) in each family who take on specific roles like Club Leader, Club Project Leader etc. have "enrolled" in 4-HOnline annually. Kansas 4-H is working to move all the volunteer annual registration to 4-HOnline, so for 2019/2020 all Lyon County 4-H volunteers and Extension volunteers will enroll on Kansas 4-HOnline and simply be able to update his or her account annually. Please watch for more information as the new year begins, and thank you for your continued support of Lyon County 4-H!



Lyon County Extension Agent
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Agriculture and Natural Resources

October-November 2019

Harvest Time is Here – or Soon Will Be!

Even though many producers got their crop off to a late start, harvest will be just around the corner and we may have a little corn already harvested. I have seen a few soybean leaves changing color by mid-September, so they will be coming along fast as well. PLEASE be aware of slow-moving farm equipment on the roads. These large pieces of equipment do not stop or turn as quickly as cars or pickups and sometimes the operators' vision is blocked so they cannot see oncoming vehicles. Remember to be courteous and obey the traffic laws!

As harvest progresses, there are fewer hours of daylight which leads to additional stress to get more work done while the conditions allow. Taking a few minutes every hour or so to get out, stretch your legs, take a walk around the equipment to get some circulation back in your body and check for debris buildup or hot spots could be time very well spent. The few minutes will help refresh you and could let you spot a minor issue before it becomes a major issue in terms of dollars and time.

2018 Farm Bill Meeting

A date has not yet been set, but soon K-State Research and Extension – Lyon County and the Lyon-Chase Farm Service Agency will be hosting a meeting regarding the 2018 Farm Bill. This will be a similar meeting to the 2014 Farm Bill meeting where FSA will discuss the rules and regulations and Brian will discuss the decision process for program sign-up.

Sign-up for the 2019 crop year started in September and will run through March 15, 2020. Sign-up for the 2020 crop year will begin October 7, 2019 and continue through June 30, 2020. Due to later-than-anticipated final program revisions and the need to have information in the FSA offices to facilitate program sign-up as well as the need to have final revisions to the decision tool, I anticipate a meeting being scheduled in Lyon County from mid-November to mid-December.

Be sure to stay in contact with the Lyon-Chase FSA or the Lyon County Extension Office regarding the upcoming informational meeting and sign-up timing. I know the FSA will be scheduling appointments for sign-up, and I anticipate scheduling appointments with producers to review their decisions.

Kansas Bankers Association Awards

Nominate a deserving Lyon County producer or landowner for the 2019 Kansas Bankers Association Conservation Awards Program. The purpose of this program is to stimulate a greater interest in the conservation of the agricultural and natural resources of Kansas by giving recognition to those farmers and landowners who have made outstanding progress in practicing conservation on their farms.

Possible award categories include: Soil Conservation, Water Quality, Energy Conservation, Wildlife, Water Conservation, Windbreak, and Grassland. If you know an operator that deserves to be recognized, please contact Brian at 620-341-3220 or the Lyon County Conservation District with their information.

What's Happening with Fall Burning?

Many areas of Lyon and surrounding counties have seen smoke late this summer. Is it good? Is it helping? Is it the "right" thing to do? Like many decisions, it really depends on the goals of your operation.

Most will agree that if the goal is sericea control and fire carries through the sericea, the outcome is very positive. It appears to me that fire needs to be used two to three consecutive years to have the greatest effect. Sometimes it is not easy to burn native rangeland when it is green, especially if the humidity is high.

Spreading the burning season into late summer or fall helps reduce smoke issues with the more traditional spring burns. The advantage of additional weight gain for stocker animals on spring burned versus unburned native prairie has not been questioned, and work is taking place to determine the difference in gains between spring and fall burns. At that point the decision will need to be made regarding the best tool for managing the prairie grasses and also trying to keep the sericea lespedeza somewhat in check.

Growing season fires burn differently than spring burns, burning slower as the fuel is still growing and not dormant/dead. It is helpful to have at least a 15-mph wind and low humidity to help move the fire. The fire burns in the dead material at the soil surface, so don't burn in the spring if you plan a growing season fire.

Fall Crop Planning

That's right – it's not a typo. Fall is a great time for **planning** for the coming crop year. And with a harvest that appears like it may be stretched a little bit there may be a little more time to plan.

If planting wheat or a fall cover crop simply for cover or grazing, identify and secure seed sooner rather than later to avoid shortages that may delay planting or force a change in plans. Having the right seed when needed is critical to getting the intended crop off to a good start.

If the field hasn't been sampled in a while, collect a soil sample as soon as possible – even if the current crop is yet to be harvested. A good, representative soil sample can provide a sound basis for crop nutrient application to let the crop grow to its fullest potential. And don't forget that fall is also a good time to collect soil samples ahead of spring crops and allows time to plan nutrient applications and make any end-of-year purchases. I also encourage sampling following the same crop and at the same season, as nutrients are used and released slightly differently by different crops.

I would also encourage livestock producers that will be feeding harvested forage (hay or silage) to have that forage tested as well. Knowing feed inventory quality makes it easier to plan for livestock supplementation.

Old World Bluestem (OWB)

I had the opportunity to share information about the identification and possible control of Old World Bluestem (Yellow and Caucasian) at the KLA Field Day held in mid-August at Jaret and Shawna Moyer's place northeast of Emporia. I felt this was a great opportunity to shed light on a rising issue that could have devastating effects on the native rangelands that make the Flint Hills of Kansas special.

It was great to have an audience of over 125 interested participants learning about grass identification. I was able to have samples of both yellow and Caucasian bluestems, along with Big Blue, Little Blue, Switchgrass, and Sideoats Grama. And of course I couldn't pass up an opportunity to ensure that everyone attending could identify *sericea lespedeza* as well.

Early identification and eradication appear to be the best approach to keep it from becoming a greater issue. <https://mdc.mo.gov/sites/default/files/downloads/OldWorldBluestems.pdf> is one of the best aids I have found to assist with OWB identification.

Farm Financial Skills

The Ag Econ department at K-State is offering a series of sessions this winter to help improve farm financial skills. Titled "*Farm Financial Skills for Kansas Women in Agriculture*", this four-session series will help bring to light many of the financial statements that are important to today's operations, with explanations on the why as well as hands-on case farm exercises to walk through the preparation of these statements.

On a couple of evenings, there will also be a local presenter to share about a topic of interest. I am solidifying those speakers with their topics, but these will be very informative sessions for all attending.

Dates selected are January 15, 22, 29, and February 5. These are Wednesday evenings that will start at 5:30 with a meal, and end at 8:30 p.m. February 12 is a "just-in-case" weather date.

Although billed as Farm Financial Skills for Kansas Women in Agriculture, the financial principles apply to all. If couples or men only would like to attend, please don't hesitate. Just let me know if you are interested and planning on attending. There is a \$40 registration fee to help offset the meals and other material expenses. We need to have at least 8 attend and will limit at 25.

Fall Planning for Livestock

Fall is a great time for many livestock related activities. Checking any animals that should be bred and culling those that are open can help make winter feeding and calving go much better. It's also a good time for an evaluation of body condition on pregnant cows and heifers. It is much easier to improve body condition now with more generally favorable weather conditions than once the temperatures drop and weather is less favorable.

With the number of cows culled at time of preg check, cow prices are often at their low. If you are in a position to do so, now may be a good time to feed cull cows to increase their weight and value with lower-cost feedstuffs. Be aware of the potential cost of gain as well as the likely value of any potential gain.

If you have calves to wean, it may be well to investigate any opportunities to increase their value as well. If you can participate in any programs and feel you can be rewarded for any additional vaccinations or weaning work do so. Reducing stress on calves and cows at weaning will lead to more pounds weaned and a more desirable, valuable calf to sell!

Open Enrollment for Medicare Part D October 15th to December 7th

Doug Stueve and I will be taking appointments to assistance individuals with reviewing and selecting their prescription drug plans. To schedule an appointment please call the Lyon County Extension Office at (620) 341-3220.

Medicare Basics Workshop

October 9, 2019
5:30 p.m.

Bowyer Community Building
Lyon County Fairgrounds

This free educational program is designed for anyone who is interested in learning more about Medicare and the different parts, especially those who are turning 65 or working with elderly parents. The program will cover:

- Medicare eligibility
- How and when to apply
- What is covered by the different parts
- How to fill the gaps
- Low income assistance
- How to recognize Medicare fraud

If you have any questions about the Medicare Basics Workshop or to register please call (620) 341-3220 by Friday, October 4th.

Winterizing Garden Hand Tools

As fall continues and we get closer to the end of gardening season, it is a good idea to prepare your tools for the winter. Many garden tools such as garden hoes and shovels may have wooden handles that can deteriorate over time. Storing these tools in a protected location can help slow that process, but normal use will still expose the tools to the elements. At the end of the season it is a good time to clean up and protect the tools so they will last many years. Weathering can raise the grain of wood on handles, which can result in splinters. A light sanding can smooth any raised areas on wooden handles. Following the sanding with a light application of wood preservative like linseed oil or polyurethane will help protect the wood. Wipe off any excess after a few minutes as oil-based products can attract dirt.

Remove soil from metal surfaces. Use sandpaper or steel wool to remove any rust that may have formed. Now would also be a good time to sharpen any dull edges. A light coating of oil will help protect metal through the winter.

Soil Testing

Before amending your soils or adding fertilizer prior to planting it is a good idea to have a soil test. A soil test helps us understand what the pH, phosphorus, and potassium levels 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 root 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. Once results are received by the office, you will then receive the results with recommendations for your area.

Keep Compost Pile Moist

This is the time of year when there are lots of materials available to compost. Remember that the compost needs to be kept moist so that the bacteria and fungi can break down the raw materials. Use a sprinkler to soak through

the pile to the center. Allow the pile to drain. The goal is for the pile to remain moist; not waterlogged. Edges will dry out the quickest and may need a light sprinkling from time to time.

When working with a compost pile that has been mixed properly and is breaking down, it will give off some heat. Make sure that other flammable materials are positioned away from the compost pile as it could combust if it gets too hot. If you are interested in composting but don't know how it is done, see our publication at the Lyon County Extension Office.

Harvesting Sweet Potatoes

Sweet potatoes should be harvested no later than the first fall freeze because cold temperatures can damage the sensitive roots. However, you may want to harvest earlier if you prefer a smaller sweet potato. Test dig a hill to see if they are the size you want.

Sweet potatoes should be cured after being dug. The digging process often damages the tender skin, and curing helps these small wounds heal. Place the roots in a warm, humid location for 5 to 10 days immediately after digging. A location with a temperature around 85 to 90 degrees is ideal. A space heater can be used to heat a small room or other area. Raise the humidity by placing moist towels in the room. The curing process not only heals wounds but also helps convert starches to sugars. This process improves the texture and flavor of the roots.

Sweet potatoes should be stored above 55 degrees. Storage at temperatures below that injures the roots, shortens storage life and gives them an off flavor.

Control Broadleaf Weeds in Lawns in Late October - Early November

Late October to early November is the most effective time to control broadleaf weeds in lawns. Dandelions usually produce a flush of new plants in late September, and the winter annual weeds henbit and chickweed should have germinated in October. These young plants are small and easily controlled with herbicides such as 2,4-D or combination products (Trimec, Weed-B-Gon, Weed-Out) that contain 2,4-D, MCPP and Dicamba. Even established dandelions are more easily controlled now than in the spring because they are actively moving materials from the top portion of the plant to the roots in the fall.

Herbicides will translocate to the roots as well and will kill the plant from the roots up. Choose a day that is 50 degrees or higher. The better the weed is growing; the more weed killer will be moved from the leaves to the roots. Cold temperatures will slow or stop this process.

Weed Free Zone (also sold under the name of Speed Zone) contains the three active ingredients mentioned above, plus carfentrazone. It will give a quicker response than the other products mentioned especially as temperatures approach 50 degrees.

Fall Care of Peonies

Now is the time to cut peony foliage back to the ground, if this has not been done already. Compost or discard the foliage. Fertilize peonies twice a year — in the spring shortly before new growth appears and then again in the fall after the plants have been cut back. A total of 1.5 to 2 ounces (3 to 4 tablespoons) of a 1-1-1 fertilizer such as a 10-10-10 or 13-13-13 per plant per application should be used. This amounts to 3 to 4 ounces of fertilizer per year. If a soil test reveals adequate levels of phosphorus and potassium, use a lawn fertilizer such as a 29-5-4, 27-3-3 or something similar, but cut the rate to 1/3 of the above rate. In other words, apply 1/2 to 3/4 ounce (1 to 1.5 tablespoons) per plant. The lawn fertilizer should not be a “weed and feed.”

Never apply fertilizer directly on the center of the peony as the buds (eyes) may be damaged. Rather, place the fertilizer in a band from 8 to 18 inches from the center of the plant. Water the fertilizer in so the plant can take it up.

Winter protection of herbaceous peonies is only necessary the first winter after planting to prevent alternate freezing and thawing from lifting plants out of the soil. A couple of inches of mulch should be sufficient. Any organic material that does not mat down will work and should be applied after the ground freezes. Avoid using leaves that will mat together. Remove the covering before growth begins in the spring.

The less common tree peonies have woody stems like deciduous shrubs and should not be cut back to the ground or pruned in the fall. Collect the shed leaves and place in the compost pile this fall. Though tree peonies are hardy to Zone 4, they do benefit from a light mulching over winter. Also, it is recommended that tree peonies be fertilized during November to get the plants off to a good start next spring. It is best to take a soil test to see what nutrients are needed. If the soil needs phosphorus and potassium, use a complete fertilizer (such as 10-10-10, 9-9-6, etc.) at the rate of 2.5 pounds per 100 square feet. This would equal 1 rounded teaspoon per square foot.

If phosphorus and potassium are not needed, blood meal makes an excellent fertilizer. Apply at the rate of 2 pounds per 100 square feet or 1 teaspoon per square foot. Turf fertilizers such as a 27-3-3 or 30-3-3 also can be used but at the rate of 1 pound per 100 square feet or 1 teaspoon per 2 square feet.

Lyon County

2632 West Highway 50
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Return Service Requested

October

- 01 4-H Ambassador applications due
- 6-12 National 4-H Week
- 07 Record Books & Award Applications due to Extension Office
- 07 Master Gardener Meeting, noon, EMR
- 07 Ambassadors Meeting, 6 p.m., EMR
- 07 4-H Council Meeting, 7 p.m., EMR
- 14 Columbus Day – Extension Office Closed
- 15-12/7 Medicare Part D Enrollment
- 15 Cloverbuds, 6 p.m., EMR
- 16 Senior Health Fair, AB
- 20 Poultry Club Meeting, 1 p.m., EMR
- 20 Hop to it Rabbit Club Meeting, 2 p.m., EMR
- 25 County-wide Fiber Arts Meeting, 6-8 p.m., Fiber House
926 West 6th Avenue, Emporia

November

- 03 Lyon County 4-H Achievement Celebration, 3 p.m., AB
- 04 Master Gardener Meeting, Noon, EMR
- 04 4-H Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., AB
- 04 4-H Officer Training, 7 p.m., AB
- 09 County-wide Foods Meeting, EMR
- 11 Veterans Day – Extension Office Closed
- 15 4-H Club Financial Reviews due
- 17 Poultry Club Meeting, 1 p.m., EMR
- 17 Hop to it Rabbit Club Meeting, 2 p.m., EMR
- 19 Cloverbuds, 6 p.m., EMR
- 22 County-wide Fiber Arts Meeting, 6-8 p.m., Fiber House,
926 West 6th Avenue, Emporia
- 23-24 Kansas Youth Leadership Forum, Rock Springs
- 28-29 Thanksgiving Holiday – Extension Office Closed

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