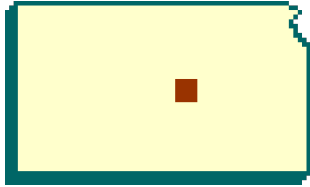


McPherson County



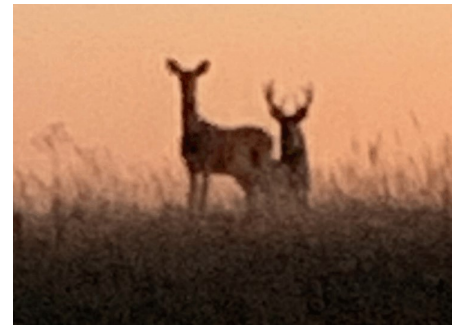
K-State Research & Extension
600 West Woodside, McPherson KS 67460
620-241-1523 FAX 620-241-3407
www.mcpherson.ksu.edu

December 2021 - January 2022



Ag News

Shad Marston
County Extension Agent
Agriculture and Natural Resources



KSRE Calving School

Thursday, January 13, 2022

McPherson County 4-H Building
710 West Woodside
McPherson KS



Steak Dinner by reservation
Call the office 620-241-1523 by noon Friday, January 7
or email Terra at tregehr@ksu.edu or click link below
<http://tinyurl.com/KSRECalvingSchool>

(Also, please call if you need to cancel a reservation)

PROGAM:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 6:00 p.m. | KC Strip Dinner - \$10.00 (by reservation only) |
| 7:00 p.m. | A.J. Tarpoff, DVM, MS Beef Extension Veterinarian |

Event sponsored by: Harvey, Marion, McPherson and Rice K-State Research and Extension Offices

Holiday Office Hours

CLOSED for
Christmas and New Year's
December 24 through January 1

Regular business hours - 8:00-5:00
starting January 3.

**Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year
from all of us here at
the Extension Office.**



Spring Tree Order Forms Available

Spring 2022 tree sales is coming up quickly. Seedlings are one or two years old and their sizes vary from 12 to 18 inches, depending on their species. Orders will be accepted via mail, phone or online at www.kansasforests.org from December 1 through May 1, 2022.

Shipping is available and will start in mid-March as weather permits; pick-up is also welcome.

Master Gardeners and Friends Programs for Jan, Feb, March and April

The McPherson County Master Gardeners and Friends are excited to announce their spring gardening programs for all McPherson County residents to take part in. Each Horticulture program will be held in the McPherson County Extension meeting room at 600 W. Woodside here in McPherson. A short business meeting will begin the evening with the program starting at 7:00pm each night.



The dates for this year's meeting are:

Thursday, January 27 – Kody Kramer - McPherson Arborist – talking about **Trees** – Pruning/Trimming - when is the correct time and proper technique, Kody will also talk about disease or insect damage, and other pertinent information on keeping our valued trees living a long healthy life.

Thursday, February 24 – Katie Schmidt from Hesston Dyck Arboretum talk about **Bee Hotels**.

Thursday, March 24 – we will have two speakers – both presenting on **Innovative ways of Gardening** from Tom Buller from Douglas County Extension Service and Jeanne Strausz.

Thursday, April 28 – Jordan Pflughoff on **Landscaping** – Improvements in your yard- curb, under trees, hot dry spots, low spots - challenging places as well as new fresh ideas.

Weed Management Practices Changing For Producers

Increased prices and decreased availability of herbicides impact producers

by Shelby Varner, K-State Research and Extension news

A Kansas State University weed management specialist says increased prices and decreased availability of herbicides may force farmers into finding alternative ways of managing weeds in their fields.

“Producers have got some tough decisions to make this winter as they think about how they're going to manage things coming into the spring,” said K-State’s Sarah Lancaster.

She added that “significant shortages” of glyphosate and glufosinate are anticipated in 2022. “Some of the distributors that I've talked with actually are talking about the situation not being cleared up by 2023,” Lancaster said.

Lancaster said those forces will require changing how business is done without herbicides. She said it may be a good test run if -- years down the road -- herbicide resistance prevents the post-emergence herbicides from working.

In the meantime, Lancaster urges producers to consider implementing practices to make sure that the herbicides being used are effective. They include:

- * Check equipment every day before spraying, including nozzles.
- * Adjust the speed of the vehicle you are driving while spraying. “When you drop the driving speed, you're allowing more of your herbicide to hit the intended target,” Lancaster said.
- * Add water to increase the spray volume of the herbicide.

“As we think about ways to take the pressure off the post-emergence products, having a solid pre-emergence herbicide program is important,” Lancaster said. “That includes multiple effective modes of action, especially for things like pigweeds, but also for other weeds that have kind of slipped through the cracks the last few years.”

In addition, Lancaster said optimizing planting dates, optimizing seeding rates, seeding depth, and fertility may help give the crop a competitive edge over weeds. Non-chemical weed management practices – such as weed electrocution, a method in which weeds are shocked with thousands of volts of electricity – may also be worth considering, she said.

Crop Residues: Nutritive Value and Options For Grazing

The five-year average of corn acres harvested reported by NASS leads to an estimate of approximately 5.5 million acres of corn and 200,000 tons of residue produced annually in Kansas. In addition, 2.8 million acres of grain sorghum and 70,000 tons of residue were produced. While not all acres are suitable for grazing, this represents a tremendous resource for the state. Residue yield and nutrient contents are dependent on grain yield, fertility, harvest date, and conditions at harvest. Nutrient content of residues is additionally impacted by duration and timing of grazing initiation.



Figure 1. Cattle grazing crop residue. Photo submitted by Sandy Johnson, K-State Research and Extension.

The amount of grain left in the field has been reduced considerably compared to historical levels through varietal and harvest equipment improvements. However, weather conditions can result in significant ear drop or plant lodging. Before grazing, scout fields to look for piles of grain on the ground and determine if there is over 8-10 bushels of grain on the ground. If so, management steps should be taken to remove these piles prior to turning out cattle on the residue. Directions to estimate ear drop and head drop can be found [here](#). While sorghum grain is always processed prior to feeding to crack its tough shell coat, cattle can still founder on downed grain sorghum heads.

Nutritive value of corn and sorghum residues
A nutritional evaluation of grazed Kansas corn and sorghum crop residues was conducted with the help of numerous producers and county agents across the state. Table 1 summarizes values from that survey.

Table 1. Range of crude protein (CP), acid detergent fiber (ADF; higher values reflect lower digestibility), neutral detergent fiber (NDF; higher values reflect animal intake), and total digestible nutrients (TDN) in corn and sorghum residue from Kansas samples.

	Leaves				Stem			
	CP	ADF	NDF	TDN	CP	ADF	NDF	TDN
Corn Nov.	4.6 – 6.0	46.7 – 48.2	75.6 - 81	51- 52	3.3 - 4.4	55.9 – 60.6	79.0 – 79.7	41 - 45
Corn Dec.	4.9 – 5.7	48.4 – 53.5	75.2 - 77.3	47 - 51	3.9 - 4.6	55.3 – 59.1	78.7 – 80.3	42 - 45
Sorghum	8.3 – 11.7	40.3 – 46.1	58.5 – 65.7	53 - 57	5.3 - 4.9	46.3 – 50.4	66.2 - 73.5	49 - 52

A more detailed look at plant components indicate any grain available would have the highest CP content followed by the leaves. The cob has the lowest protein and energy value. The stalk and husks have similar crude protein content, but more energy is available from the husks than the stalks due to the lower lignin content. In general, leaves from sorghum residue have higher CP content than corn leaves. The stalks of corn and sorghum are similar in CP, but digestibility is somewhat higher in sorghum than corn. More details on nutrient concentrations of crop residues can be viewed in this [UNL publication](#).

Duration of grazing

To ensure adequate residue remains on the field after grazing, we can use animal weight and grain yield to determine the amount of grazing available. Cattle will readily remove approximately 15% of the residue (leaves and husk), but can be forced to remove more if desired. The goal should be to leave at least ½ of the total amount of residue on the field.

If an irrigated corn yield is 180 bu/acre, a rule of thumb is to divide by 3.5 to get grazing days for a 1200-pound cow. In this case, 180 bu/acre corn residue should provide approximately 51 days of grazing ($180/3.5 = 51$) for a 1200 lb cow. The harvest index (grain production/total biomass) is similar for both corn and grain sorghum (1.6%). So, an 85 bus/acre dryland sorghum divided by 3.5, would provide approximately 24 days of grazing ($85/3.5 = 24$). A lactating cow or a heavier cow will consume more dry matter and the days of grazing would be adjusted downward. A [spreadsheet](#) is available to calculate stocking rate based on animal body weight and grain yield.

Selective grazing

Cattle will selectively graze the crop residue, eating the highest quality portions first, grain then leaves and husks. Depending on the stalling rate, amount of grain available, and nutrient demands of the cows, no energy or protein supplementation may be needed early in the grazing period for dry cows with a body condition score of 5 or more and grazing as described above. Weathering and trampling will decrease quality over time and this loss is greater with moisture and high humidity.

Soil compaction considerations

Cattle will cause soil compaction in paths leading to and around a water source. These compacted areas will only be surface compaction in the top 2-inches of soil. These compacted areas can be remedied by shallow tillage. Results on soil compaction from grazing have shown mixed results. A study near Bushland, TX found surface compaction in a no-till system reduced crop yield after several years of grazing. While grazing studies from Nebraska found no increase in compaction and increased crop yield. Studies from western Kansas found compaction to only occur in the top two inches when grazing occurred on wet soils and shallow tillage removed any compaction. Compaction will be less on frozen, dry, sandy soils. It is best to remove cattle from the field to a nearby perennial pasture if the field is wet and not frozen. Also, the producer should be open to using shallow tillage should compaction occur.

Nutrient removal from grazing

Another common concern about grazing residue is nutrient removal. Nutrient removal will vary by the type of animal, with a growing calf requiring more nitrogen than a mature dry cow. Dry cows will typically be used to graze residue, which will remove between 1 and 2 lbs of N per acre (depending on crop yield) and few other nutrients. Crop residue is low in phosphorus (P); thus, producers will likely supply a free-choice mineral, resulting in an increase in the amount of P and calcium left in the field. Wind will blow leaves and husks off fields, but manure remains in place.

All About Poinsettias

Here are some great tips on how to care for these vibrant flowers.

Kansas State University horticulture expert Ward Upham said it's important to let the light shine on poinsettias, often a favorite flower for the fall and winter months. "Place your poinsettias in a sunny window or brightest area of the room," Upham said, "but don't let it touch the cold windowpanes." If windows become drafty at night, it is best to remove poinsettias or draw drapes to avoid cold damage.

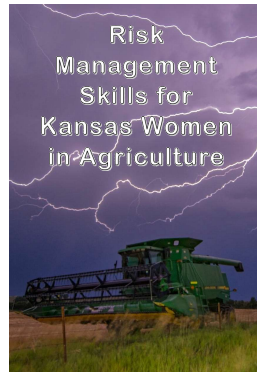
For the best bloom results, Upham suggests keeping poinsettias at temperatures between 65 degrees Fahrenheit – 75 F during the day, and 60-65 F at night. He said blooms won't last as long at temperatures higher than 75 F; root rot may occur at temperatures lower than 60 F.

Poinsettias are also quite finicky about soil moisture conditions. Upham recommends checking soil moisture daily by sticking your finger in the soil, about one-half inch deep. "If it is dry to this depth, the plant needs water," he said. "When it becomes dry to the touch, water the plant with lukewarm water until some water runs out of the drainage hole, then discard the drainage water." Following the temperature and soil moisture guidelines should keep poinsettias in top shape during the holiday season, he said.

Are Poinsettias Poisonous?

A rumor that often surfaces around times when poinsettias are at their prime is that they are poisonous. Although their milky sap may sometimes cause a mild allergic reaction in some people, there has never been a recorded case of poisoning. "This rumor has been so persistent that members of the Society of American Florists have sought to dispel it by eating poinsettia leaves for the press," Upham said.

According to the American Medical Association Handbook of Poisonous and Injurious Plants, poinsettias do not contain an irritant or toxin; have not been found to produce an effect orally or topically; and have not caused cases of vomiting. Although consuming them is not advised, Upham said poinsettias are otherwise completely safe.



K-State Research & Extension recognizes the uncertainty that farmers and ranchers are experiencing due to fluctuating grain and input prices. More than ever, risk management of the operation is critical to long-term sustainability.

This workshop series will teach principles of determining cost of production, developing a marketing plan, purchasing crop insurance and participating in farm programs (ARC/PLC). Participants will work

with a case farm to apply these topics to a real-world farming operation. The goal is for participants to acquire risk management skills they can apply directly to their own farming operations.

Other special topics will include managing stress and being resilient in tough times, and communicating effectively with family members.

The program will be a combination of broadcasted keynote speakers, local speakers, and facilitators to assist in completing the hands-on activities.

An optional 5th session will cover similar risk management principles for beef cow/calf operations.

This program is just one example of K-State Extension's commitment to diversity and inclusion. While the program is designed to highlight women's issues in agriculture, it is open to any participant without regard to sex.

For more information contact Robin Reid, K-State Agricultural Economics at 785-532-0964 or LaVell Winsor, K-State Farm Analyst Program at 785-220-5451.

Program Schedule

All Sessions begin with dinner at 5:30 pm & conclude 8:30 pm.

January 12: Local networking activity & Enterprise Budgeting & Activity

January 19: Crop Insurance & Activity and Stress & Resiliency

January 26: Crop Marketing & Activity and Family Communication

February 2: Farm Bill Programs & Activity and Special Speaker and Awards

Optional Session #5

Beef Cow/Calf Risk Management

February 23

Enterprise Budgeting & Activity and Cattle Marketing and Cow/Calf Insurance Options

Registration: This program will be run as a series, so each night will build upon the material from the previous sessions. As such, participants will register for the entire 4-session series (session #5 optional).

- ✓ \$50.00 registration fee will cover all meals and all program materials if registered by December 31.
- ✓ \$75.00 registration fee after December 31....*local scholarship may be available
- ✓ Add \$10.00 if registering for 5th session with series or \$15.00 for that session alone.

Register for series by visiting: www.AgManager.info under "Events"

First 500 participants to register will receive a free Grain Marketing Book!



Clover Corner

Lindsey Mueting
County Extension Agent



Happy Holidays! We are in a season of Thankfulness and I want to encourage you to take a moment to send a special note of thanks to someone who makes a difference in your 4-H career. This might be a leader, volunteer, project mentor, peer or parent! Remind them of the difference they make to you in the hard work and time that they give!

The upcoming months will continue to be busy for all and our 4-H year is off and moving quickly! I hope that you will have some time to really think about your 4-H projects and yearly goals. How can your learning and doing, maybe be a stress reliever to you? Write down your goals so that you know what to shoot for! Make sure that you are officially enrolled for the year so you get project announcements and emails. Please remember that each 4-H'er MUST be enrolled online! Head to <https://v2.4honline.com> and log into your family profile. You will then edit individual family members to re-enroll them! If you have problems or questions, just ask!

There are several service project opportunities and events listed in the newsletter, please make sure to read it closely as your next one will not come out until February! We will be well on our way to a successful 4-H year by then! Keep learning and growing each day! Make the Best Better!

~Lindsey

Calendar of Events

December

Dec 2 4-H Council - 7 PM
Dec 2 4-H Ambassadors - 8 PM
Dec 9 Bring Your 4-H Projects to Life! 7 PM
Dec 10 Hershey & Glove Donations Due
Dec. 24-31 Closed

January

Jan. 1 Closed
Jan. 13 Bring Your 4-H Projects to LIFE!
Jan. 15 Club Goals Due
Jan. 18 Area KAP selections due to Office
Jan. 20 NE Area KAP Screening
Feb 1 Club Fair Theme selections due

Get Published

Have project news or reports of fun 4-H happenings? Get them to Lindsey to publish in the upcoming Clover Corner. The next issue will be printed for February, please email or bring in any articles to Lindsey by January 20.



Mitten Tree

4-Her's are encouraged to bring cold weather items (coats, hats, scarves, gloves, socks, or monetary gifts) to Home State Bank and Trust's Community Mitten Tree between Thanksgiving and Christmas. The tree is located in the lobby at their Main and Euclid location. Donations can also be dropped off at the Extension Office. The items will be distributed to all the elementary schools in McPherson County. Thank to you the K-State Wild Kids 4-H Club for helping set up and carry out this community service project!

Snowman Glove Service Activity

All 4-Hers are invited to help make snowman gifts for area children. We are looking for donations of regular, full sized Hershey bars (not fun sized or king size, please) and new child sized gloves (the basic knit ones would be perfect!) to complete this project.

Please drop donations off at the extension office by 5 pm on Friday, December 10th.





Build to Give

LEGO Build to Give is a simple and fun way for 4-Hers to help out this holiday season. Just build a star out of LEGO bricks and take a picture of your star. Share the picture on social media with #BuildToGive and LEGO will donate a set to charity. Those who don't have social media or aren't comfortable sharing can email their photos to Lindsey for sharing on the county facebook page!



County-Wide Committees/Council Date

County-Wide Committees

4-H Day, Officer Training, Social Events, Fair Fun Events... these are some of the events and activities planned by county-wide committees! Anyone can be on a committee, or as many committees as they wish! Sign-up is found on our website www.mcpherson.ksu.edu under 4-H Youth Development, Forms and Resources or can be picked up at or emailed from the Office. Each council rep must be on at least one committee, but everyone is welcome!

County 4-H Council

The next Council Committee will be December 2 at 7:00 p.m. We will meet at the Extension Office. Please remember that each club is invited to have two youth and two adult representatives at each meeting. If you are an officer, you should have received an email about your duties. Please make sure you are prepared for the meeting!

2021 Project Record Books

4-H Members that were Project Champions in the Senior Division and will be submitting a Project Record Form to the area judging, please remember that those books (with completed cover letter and resume) will be due to the Extension Office on January 18.

McPherson County is able to bring up to three volunteers to the judging in Manhattan on January 20. Please contact the office as soon as possible if you are able to help.

Bring Your 4-H Projects to Life!

This program is scheduled for each second Thursday of each month. Watch your emails for details on December's session (Dec 9 at 7:00 PM). We will be focusing on the K-State Personal Financial Planning Program! This will be a great learning experience for all 4-H'ers!

Club Goals

Each year, clubs set goals as to what they hope to accomplish for the year. These are due on January 15. Clubs decide if they want to go for a club seal and what level they would like to try to achieve. This is usually decided by a committee made up of youth and adults, but it can be discussed at a club meeting.

Once a decision is made on which seal to aim for, it is up to all members of the club to help achieve those goals. This means doing your part by participating in 4-H events, doing presentations, completing your record book, and attending club and project meetings!

Horse Panorama at Rock Springs

Horse Panorama will move back to Rock Springs January 28-30, 2022. Horse Bowl, Hippology, and Speaking Contests will be held in person. While photography, logos, posters, and the model horse will be offered as hybrid classes, allowing those unable to attend an opportunity to submit materials.

Registration will be released in early December, closing early January. The exact dates will be released with registration.

4-H Fair Theme

Don't forget about the 4-H Fair Theme Contest! Be thinking of your ideas today to present to your club!

- Each club will submit one theme to the Extension Office by February 1
- 4-H Council will decide on the top 3 themes
- Each 4-H member will then be asked to vote on their favorite theme.

4-H Day with Wildcat Women

We are so excited to be together again in 2022 to cheer on the Cats with other 4-H members and supporters from across the state! Tickets are just \$22 which include a game ticket, t-shirt and \$10 concession voucher! Please register by December 21! This could be a great celebration for clubs to car pool to and enjoy together! Hope to see you there!

<https://conta.cc/3cbHDDI>



Kansas 4-H Camp

Don't forget that registration is open for summer camp at Rock Springs 4-H Ranch. You can find dates and details at:

www.rockspringsranch4hcamp.org

County Achievement Celebration

Thank you to all who attended our Achievement Celebration at P&M Pumpkin Ranch! We had nearly perfect weather for a November day. It was fun to see so many families enjoying the activities at the ranch and see each of you during our awards ceremony! Below is a photo with Jon Corn, 4-H Alum and MKC Representative as they presented a very generous donation to help with Leadership Development in McPherson County!

