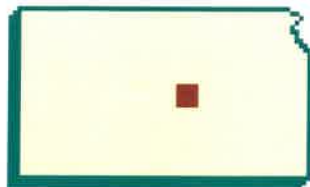


# McPherson County



K-State Research & Extension  
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**JULY-AUGUST 2021**



## Ag News

**Shad Marston**  
**County Extension Agent**  
**Agriculture and Natural Resources**

*July brings County fairs, warmer temperatures and more commitments for our Ag community. With wheat harvest finishing up, our thoughts move to putting up hay, weed control in all our fields, checking livestock in pastures and preparing for fall harvest. The life of the Kansas farmer doesn't get to slow down much, this time of year. Here at K-State Research and Extension: McPherson County, we are busy planning events, programs and activities from all segments in our office. Please look over our coming events to find an educational activity that interests you. Plan to attend one of the two fairs we have in McPherson County. There are lots of activities scheduled for families to take part in. Take some time to learn something new this summer at an Extension program. These programs can help make your work life just a little easier, more profitable and ensure your following the right steps to make the land we live on better than we found it. I hope that everyone in our community can take a little time off over the 4 of July to spend with family and friends and enjoy all the good that surround us.*

### 2021 Pre-Plant Wheat School

Monday, August 23, 2021  
Meal – 6:30; Program – 7:00  
First United Methodist Church  
1200 East Kansas Avenue, McPherson

RSVP by Friday, August 20 by emailing  
[smarston@ksu.edu](mailto:smarston@ksu.edu) or [tregehr@ksu.edu](mailto:tregehr@ksu.edu) or  
call the office at 620-241-1523

#### Program Topics:

- \* Wheat Agronomy  
Romulo Lollato  
KSU Specialist Wheat & Forage
- \* Wheat Varieties  
Allen Fritz, KSU Wheat Breeders
- \* Plant Pathologist  
Kelsey Andersen Onofre

## SAVE THE DATE

Join the **Goering Farms field day** on July 29th for live demonstrations and advice from experts on implementing year-round grazing. Don't miss it!

- Installing a tire tank and solar panels as an alternate water source for livestock**
- Discussions about grazing annuals**
- Options for electric fencing**
- Details about the WRAPS program and available cost-sharing opportunities**

**3 A.M. - LUNCH**  
**FRONTIER AND 18TH AVENUE**  
**MCPHERSON, KANSAS**  
**LUNCH PROVIDED**

More details to follow.  
Questions? Contact [kstatekcare@ksu.edu](mailto:kstatekcare@ksu.edu)

# SAVE the DATE

Join local producers, researchers and industry leaders on August 31 for a field day at the Flickner Innovation Farm.

- Automated drone technology to identify crop conditions
- Using an interseeder to plant cover crops
- Soil health and carbon studies
- Visit with industry partners to learn about new and current technologies
- Mobile and sub-surface drip irrigation systems, soil and plant moisture monitoring technology



## Battle Begins to Save Sweet Corn From Earworm

*K-State horticulture expert shares tips to save one of summer's favorite treats*

Many home gardeners understand a sad truth about the corn earworm: the little critter loves sweet corn just as much as humans do.

It creates a yearly battle to fight back the pesky insect. The adult corn earworm moth lays eggs on developing corn silks and as soon as the eggs hatch, larval cornworms go to work.

"Feeding starts at the tip of the ear and works down," said Kansas State University horticulture expert Ward Upham.

Corn earworms feed on each other as well as the corn, so handpicking the larva is not recommended, Upham said. Multiple eggs may hatch on a single silk, but there may not be many earworms present at harvest time.

"Though several earworms may hatch and attack a single ear, usually only one is present at harvest due to the cannibalistic nature of the insect," Upham said.

Protecting sweet corn from earworms comes with a couple time-dependent challenges. As corn silks continue to grow, any new silk that is left untreated can be targeted by earworms. Upham recommends applying insecticides every 2 to 3 days in order to be effective, "especially in early July, when peak flight of these moths usually appear," he said.

Additionally, adult earworm moths prefer juicy silks instead of dry silks, so insecticide only needs to be applied the first two weeks of silking.

What insecticides are most effective? Upham recommends cyfluthrin for home gardeners. If an organic insecticide is preferred, Spinosad is another option.

Another organic choice is mineral oil or other light horticultural oils.

To treat the corn, fill a medicine dropper  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  full of the oil, then apply inside the silk end of the corn's ear – where the tips of the silk begin to wilt and brown. Upham said the oil will kill any earworms present and prevent more earworms from entering the ear.

However, he said, take note that applying oil before the silk has begun to brown may lead to partially unfilled ears, as the oil will interfere with pollination.



**Corn Harvest** in Kansas will be here before you know it. Corn producers in the state are encouraged to keep in mind the Kansas Corn Yield Contest before they fire up the combines this year.

Kansas Corn, in conjunction with K-State Research and Extension, are conducting the 2021 Kansas Corn Yield Contest. New this year, the Kansas Corn Yield Contest has joined the National Corn Yield Contest (NCYC). To participate in the Kansas Contest, growers must enter the NCYC. This will simplify entry process while building Kansas participation in both contests. Many seed companies will cover the cost of entry. For more details in this voucher program, go to <https://www.ncga.com/get-involved/national-corn-yield-contest/profile/voucher-program>.

All corn producers are eligible to enter the contest, but must be members of the Kansas Corn Growers Association (KCGA). A KCGA membership includes one to the NCGA. Information regarding entry deadlines can be found at: <https://kscorn.com/yieldcontest/>

### Benefits of contest participation

The contest is a fun way for producers to showcase and compare their high yielding and high quality corn with other growers in their districts and state, and provide motivation to producers to improve productivity. The contest also serves as a vehicle to improve farming practices and increase awareness of best management practices (BMPs) to improve and sustain corn yields.

In addition to grower recognition, cash awards will be awarded at the district and state levels. (Figure 1). In addition, one statewide dryland winner and one statewide irrigated winner will be announced. District winners will receive \$300 and a plaque. Second place entries will receive a \$200 prize and third place will receive a \$100 prize. The highest yielding dryland and irrigated entries statewide will receive an additional \$500 prize. National Corn Yield Contest winners will be announced December 15, 2021. Kansas Corn Yield winners will be recognized at the Kansas Corn Symposium in January 2022.



Figure 1. Dryland and irrigated contest districts.

A publication summarizing the results from the 2019 Kansas Corn Yield Contest can be viewed at:

<https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3463.pdf>. The 2020 contest results will be summarized in a similar publication that will be soon be available to view online. A list of the 2020 Kansas Corn Yield Contest winners is available at: <https://kscorn.com/yieldcontest/#2020Winners>.

For complete contest information, visit <https://kscorn.com/yieldcontest/>.

For questions, call Kansas Corn at 785-410-5009 or email [dohlde@ksgrains.com](mailto:dohlde@ksgrains.com); Deb Ohlde, Director of Grower Services, Kansas Corn -- [dohlde@ksgrains.com](mailto:dohlde@ksgrains.com); Ignacio A. Ciampitti, Cropping Systems Specialist, K-State Department of Agronomy -- [ciampitti@ksu.edu](mailto:ciampitti@ksu.edu)

## Post-Harvest Weed Control

Post-harvest weed control in wheat stubble is very important to conserve soil moisture and prevent weeds from going to seed and adding to the weed seedbank that must be managed in future years. Weeds can grow quickly once the wheat canopy is removed and can easily become difficult to manage, especially in the hot, dry conditions of summer. The species that are often targeted with post-harvest herbicide applications are often Palmer amaranth and kochia; however, controlling volunteer wheat is also an important objective for these applications (Figure 1).



**Figure 1. Palmer amaranth and volunteer wheat can quickly emerge once the wheat canopy is removed at harvest. Photo by Sarah Lancaster, K-State Research and Extension.**

Historically, the key herbicides for weed control in wheat stubble were glyphosate plus 2,4-D and/or dicamba. However, the development of herbicide resistant weeds has reduced the effectiveness of these products. Higher

rates of 2,4-D and dicamba may improve control, but it is important to consider other options, especially those with residual activity on key species like pigweeds and kochia. Some options are described in the next paragraphs of this article.

**Gramoxone** (paraquat) is a non-selective, contact herbicide that can be used in fallow fields. It should be applied at 0.5 to 1.0 pounds of paraquat/A, which is equal to 2 to 4 pints of GramoxoneSL 2.0 or 1.3 to 2.7 pints of GramoxoneSL 3.0. Thorough spray coverage is important for good control, which means medium to coarse droplet sizes and greater spray volumes (20 GPA or more). Gramoxone should be applied with NIS, COC, or MSO. Because paraquat is a contact herbicide regrowth is common, especially of large weeds (Figure 2). Adding a Group 5 herbicide, such as **atrazine** or **metribuzin** can enhance control of larger weeds and add some residual activity. Atrazine will also help control volunteer wheat. It's also important to remember that paraquat is a restricted use pesticide that requires additional training for handling.



**Figure 2. This large Palmer amaranth is re-growing after being sprayed with paraquat. Photo by Sarah Lancaster, K-State Research and Extension.**

**Sharpen** (saflufenacil) is a Group 14 herbicide that is a primarily a contact herbicide but also provides some residual activity. Use 2 to 3 oz/A for larger weeds and residual activity. Sharpen works best with the addition of methylated seed oil. Sharpen requires complete coverage so using 15 to 20 gallons/acre spray solution is important.

**Valor** (flumioxazin) can provide contact and residual activity of key species like pigweeds. Valor EZ can be applied at 2 to 4 fl oz/A. Crop rotation should be considered when selecting the application rate. The 4 fl oz rate has a 4-month rotation interval for corn, cotton, sorghum, soybean, sunflower, and wheat; but lower rates have fewer restrictions. If targeting emerged weeds, NIS or COC should be included in the application.

All herbicides are most effective when applied to weeds that are actively growing. This means it is necessary to wait for a at least 2-3 inches of regrowth if weeds were cut off by the combine. It may be tempting to wait further delay applications to wait for later weed flushes; however, consider including a product with residual activity, rather than waiting, in order to prevent poor control of large weeds.

Additional information can be found in the [2021 Chemical Weed Control for Field Crops, Pastures, Rangeland, and Noncropland](#), K-State publication SRP-1162

Sarah Lancaster, Weed Science Extension Specialist  
[slancaster@ksu.edu](mailto:slancaster@ksu.edu)

# Best Practices for Storing and Feeding Big Round Bales

*Rain will often cause high nutrient losses in bales stored outside*

It is hay cutting time in Kansas, and once all the grass is baled it must be stored for future use. Oftentimes round bales are stored outdoors. Many producers may not fully realize the nutrient loss that comes with weathering of large round hay bales stored outside, particularly in regions of the state with high rainfall.

“Thirty percent of the bale is in the outer six inches so it doesn’t take much spoilage to lose a third of the bale,” said Bob Larson, Kansas State University veterinarian, during a recent discussion on the Beef Cattle Institute Cattle Chat podcast. He added that if weathering losses extend 18 inches into the bale, 75% of the hay is affected.

To minimize those losses, here are some tips to follow when storing round bales outside. Keeping the bales off the moist ground is best. That can be done by laying down a rock base or putting the bales up on wood pallets. Position bales end-to-end on a well-drained site. Placing the bales in long rows leaves less surface area and allows moisture to run off the bales. Producers should always try to line large bales in rows running north and south. Also, space the rows far enough apart (at least 3 feet) for air flow and which allows sun to reach ground after a rain or snow. Never store bales under trees. When calculating hay loss, producers need to remember there will be some natural loss during feeding as well as during storage.

Having a more efficient hay ring can save up to 25% or more of your hay fed during the winter months. That can mean if your buying hay, you can save 25% of your hay cost by feeding your round bales in a more efficient round bale feeder. Having a ring feeder that stops the hay from being drag out of the bale ring when the cattle are feedings can help greatly with the waste. Bale feeders are expensive but one can easily see the difference in a bad feeder verses a more efficient feeder.....by Shad Marston

## Cattle Chat: Managing for Pinkeye

Pinkeye prevention and early diagnosis are two keys to cattle eye health in the summer

Anyone who has experienced dust blowing in their eyes, knows how uncomfortable that can be. In much the same way, cattle’s eyes can be irritated by dust, tall grass, sunlight and flies. In some cases that will cause them to develop pinkeye, said Kansas State Beef Cattle Institute veterinarians on a recent [Cattle Chat podcast](#).

“Cattle with pinkeye often will blink more than normal, and their eyes tear up and appear inflamed,” said Brad White, BCI director and veterinarian. “This is a painful condition and, if left untreated, can cause impaired vision.”

Pinkeye, also known as infectious bovine keratoconjunctivitis, is an infectious disease that peaks in the summer, according to White, who added that calves are more susceptible to this condition than adult cattle. One of the main vectors of the disease is face flies, White said.

The other fly that is common with cattle in the summer is horn flies. White said that face flies are larger in size and fly on and off the animal’s face, while horn flies are smaller and tend to stay on the calf’s body and move with the animal.

“To keep the face flies away, you need to get the insecticide near the calf’s face frequently with either an ear tag or wipes,” veterinarian Bob Larson said.

Veterinarian Brian Lubbers added that pinkeye is hard to prevent and should be approached with a whole herd protocol.

“Because the face flies move around from one calf to another, it can easily spread in the herd,” Lubbers said.

If pinkeye does appear, Lubbers said there are treatment options.

“There are a couple of antimicrobials labeled for pinkeye that work pretty effectively,” he said.

White added if those treatments don’t clear up pinkeye quickly, then it is time to investigate further with a veterinarian.

White said: “If untreated, pinkeye can progress really rapidly. The earlier we catch it and treat it, the better the outcome will be for the animal.”



# Clover Corner

**Lindsey Mueting**  
**County Extension Agent**



Hello 4-H Families! June went so fast, but it was so much fun planning all of our upcoming events. It has been great to see so many of you at events and Oz-Some 4-H Camp! Please make sure to read and re-read this newsletter as there are many important dates and information! We are also still needing your leadership and help in many areas for 4-H Fair. Have a happy and safe July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday and keep learning and growing in your projects this month!

## 4-H Calendar

- July 1- Fair T-Shirt Orders Due
- July 1- Family Event Splash Park RSVP Due
- July 1- District Horse Show
- July 5- Office Closed
- July 11- 4-H Fun Day- Aqua Splash Park
- July 14-18 – McPherson County Fair (Canton)
- July 17- Cow Patty Bingo 4-H Council Fundraiser- 8 PM
- July 20- Fairgrounds Set-up
- July 23-26- McPherson County 4-H Fair
- July 27- Fairgrounds Clean-up
- August 12- 4-H Council- 6:30 PM
- August 3- State Fair Entries Due

## Get Published!

If you would like your news, highlights or events published in the September Clover Corner please email your news to Lindsey (LMueting@ksu.edu) by September 20. Share with the rest of the county what you are doing!

## 4-H Council

Wow- the 4-H Council year is coming to an end soon! Note the date change that was voted on for this meeting- Thursday, August 12! We will meet at 6:30 pm for pizza, a short meeting and snocones!

## Meat Goat Opportunity

There will be a goat clinic on Monday July 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. The clinic will include how to clip a doe and showmanship. Please bring your goat to practice showmanship. If you cannot bring a goat, please contact Marci Fox and we can bring a few extras. Marci Fox 620-242-4196

## Family of the Year

Each year every club has the opportunity to nominate a family for the “Family of the Year” award. We have lots of deserving families that volunteer a lot of time and energy to the McPherson County 4-H program and to their club. So it is time to recognize those efforts. At your next club meeting consider which family you would like to nominate for this award. Award nominations for clubs are due on August 10 (note extension!) to the Extension Office. At the August Meeting of 4-H Council, we will announce the nominations and then council members will take it back to their clubs for a vote before voting as a 4-H Council. So get your nominations ready, nomination forms are available at [www.mcpherson.ksu.edu](http://www.mcpherson.ksu.edu). Remember there are other awards nominations as well later in the fall as we get ready for Achievement Banquet. A list of previous winners is posted on the website.

## YQCA

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) is a national, multi-species youth livestock quality assurance program. This training will be required yearly for all Beef, Sheep, Swine and Goat exhibitors prior to the MP Co 4-H Fair. This was also required prior to nominating any animals for State Shows. We will have one more in person training (\$3) and there is an always an option to complete online (\$12). Visit <https://www.asi.k-state.edu/research-and-extension/youth-programs/YQCA.html> for more info!

The last in person training prior to fair will be Tuesday, July 20 at 4:00 PM (directly before fairgrounds set-up). You will need to register online at <https://yqca.learn-grow.io/> click on this link and it will take you to 4honline family profile, click on 4-H'er taking training and then it gives age group, select instructor base certification, then choose Kansas and McPherson click on that and pay with credit card to register. Call if you have questions.

# McPherson County Fair (Canton) July 14-18

You should have received a copy of the McPherson County Fairbook in the mail, if you have not, we do have some at the Extension Office! Be sure to look at it closely and plan to enter! Entries are checked in on July 15 and there are lots of events throughout the weekend. This is an “extra” fair we are lucky to have in our county! Any 4-H member in the state is invited to participate. It is a great opportunity for our members to go through the judging process before the 4-H Fair! We will also be having a fundraiser for 4-H council during this time- see info below!

## Cow Patty Bingo!



Help is needed to make the Cow Patty Bingo fundraiser a success. Tickets can be purchased at [MacCowPatty.TicketLeap.com](http://MacCowPatty.TicketLeap.com)

We'd like each family to sell 6 tickets, please. In addition, we need volunteers to help sell tickets in Canton before the rodeo on Friday, July 16 and Saturday, July 17  
<https://tinyurl.com/cowpattybingovolunteer>

We also need 4-Hers to draw posters to promote the fundraiser. Details are being sent by email, but entries in the poster contest will be due on Monday, July 12 at noon.

## FAIRBOOKS!

The McPherson County 4-H Fairbook is on our website and hard copies are available in the Extension Office. Please be sure to read each division well as there may be changes from previous years!

## New Service Opportunity at 4-H Fair! Goodies to Show Gratitude

Foods project members are invited to participate in a service project to take trays of treats to our local first responders. We are asking foods members who enter individual serving items in the 4-H fair (things like muffins, cookies, & brownies) to bring a few extra to donate (these are in addition to the plate needed for judging!). The donated treats will be used to make trays of goodies that we will deliver to McPherson police and firefighters. Please bring your donations to the designated table in the extension office when you come for judging. We ask that you please package them in containers (plates, bags, etc) that you do not want returned.

## Fair Sponsors Still Needed

Each year very special sponsors help fund our Grand Champion awards. These youth will receive a large rosette as well as personalized plaque. Fairboard is still in need of a few sponsors this year! They are Gelding, Forestry, Astronomy, Pets and Cat.

## Superintendents and Helpers Are Also Still Needed!

- 📎 Foods and Nutrition Co-Superintendent
- 📎 Life Skills Judging Contest Superintendent
- 📎 Exploring/Cloverbuds Superintendent
- 📎 Fashion Revue Superintendent
- 📎 Plant Science Superintendent
- 📎 Project Displays Superintendent
- 📎 Reading Displays Superintendent
- 📎 Judging Contest Check-In and Helpers

Each division will also need judges helpers/assistant superintendents. This is an excellent job for any of our jr leader youth to gain leadership experience and even some project knowledge as you get to listen to judges comments on many exhibits!

## McPherson County 4-H Social Event

Sunday, July 11 – 2:00 p.m.

Splash Aqua Park, 860 W Steeple Bay Pkwy, Wichita

RSVP to Terra ([tregehr@ksu.edu](mailto:tregehr@ksu.edu))

Cost: \$5.00 per person

Drinks and snacks will be provided by 4-H Clubs

# FAIR-OPOLY

Make sure you pre-order your 4-H Fair T-shirt by Thursday, July 1! Orders can be taken by completing the emailed form or call the office to secure an order!



## Fair Reminders

**Concession Stand** - Club leaders have received information and shift times for the fair concession stand. Please make sure you sign up to do your part and help with this!

**Club Responsibilities** – Each Club has been assigned tasks to help with during the 4-H Fair. The fair is a HUGE task, but if everyone works together it can run very smoothly! Please ask your leader what your club is assigned and sign-up for where you can help. You will have a concession stand shift and additional activity assignments!

**Silent Auction** - Each club is asked to bring at least a \$25 donation for each 15 members enrolled in your club! This is another excellent fundraiser to help us put on the fair and other 4-H events! Items 4-H'ers have made are always hugely popular as well! Be sure to bring this to the Chief building by Friday Morning or this can be dropped off at the Extension Office prior to the fair.

**Booths and Banners** - Each club is strongly encouraged to enter either a booth (6'x6' area) or banner in the McPherson 4-H Fair. These are great advertisement and a welcome to visitors as they come to our fair. If you need ideas for these items, contact Lindsey. Prizes will be awarded!

## Fair Social Event

The Fair Social Committee has been hard at work planning activities for the 4-H fair. The committee has rented an inflatable water obstacle course for 4-Hers to enjoy on Sunday afternoon (7/25)! In order to make this a success, we need volunteers (adults and 4-Hers ages 16+) to help supervise. We have created a sign up genius to help facilitate this. Please sign up by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/fairsocialvolunteers>. The more volunteer spots we are able to fill, the longer we will be able to leave the inflatable open!

## Kansas State Fair Entries

**Entries for the Kansas State Fair are due:**

4-H/FFA Beef, Sheep, Swine - July 15  
Horse - August 1  
All others - August 3

If you have an exhibit qualify for the State Fair (from 4-H Fair only - The County Fair in Canton is NOT a state fair qualifying fair with the exception of certain animal projects that can qualify at multiple shows), it is your responsibility to fill out the entry form at the Extension Office before August 3.

**To qualify for the State Fair:**

1. 4-H member must be 9 years of age before January 1, 2021. AND
2. Your 4-H Fair Exhibit\* must have received a purple ribbon.

\*Not all projects are eligible for the State Fair. See your 4-H Fair book for details. The Extension Office has a copy of the Kansas State Fair 4-H Rules as well, or they can be found online at <http://www.kansas4-h.org/p.aspx?tabid=46>

**Kansas State Fair Gate Tickets**

Each 4-H member entering static exhibits will receive two complementary gate tickets to the Kansas State Fair. We will order and have these available in the Extension Office. We have not received information on extra ticket orders at this time, but will send out information as it becomes available!

## Save the Date!

**An In-Person Record Book Training will be held Tuesday, August 10 at 6:30 PM! Watch for more details in email!**

**Leaders and Volunteers, please save the evening of Thursday, Sept 23 for a special new 4-H year Kick-Off Event!**

**Officer Training and Family Event is set for Oct 23, location TBD. We will also have a tailgate service party!**

# EXCITING JUNE 4-H HAPPENINGS!

Farm Safety Day  
Camp hosted nearly  
80 youth as well as 6  
teen helpers!



20 Oz-Some McPherson  
Campers and Counselors  
attended 4-H Camp at  
Rock Springs!



Photography members visited Maxwell Lake to learn about  
macro photography of wildflowers and “bugs”!



County-Wide Leader, Rachel,  
organized a livestock and animals tour  
event for our Exploring and Cloverbud  
members! Older 4-H peers got to  
teach about their projects!



Wildlife members toured Hutchinson Zoo and  
Dillon Nature Center on their project field trip!

**Thank you to all the volunteers  
and leaders that make learning  
and growing in McPherson  
County 4-H so much fun!**





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## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### AGENT CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Shad Marston**  
County Extension Agent  
Agriculture and Natural Resources  
[smarston@ksu.edu](mailto:smarston@ksu.edu)  
Radio: Friday, 7:25 a.m.



K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provided and employer. K-State Research and Extension is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision or hearing disability, or a dietary restriction please contact Lindsey Mueting at 620.241.1523.