



Cottonwood Extension District K-State Research & Extension News

Cottonwood Extension District #17

Spring Edition 2018

Great Bend Office

1800 12th Street
Great Bend, KS 67530
Phone: 620-793-1910
Fax: 620-793-1913

Hays Office

601 Main Street, Suite A
Hays, KS 67601
Phone: 785-628-9430
Fax: 785-621-2002



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Horticulture

Rip Winkel

Lawn Calendar for Warm-season Grasses

As the temperatures outside start to gradually warm up, many of us will be putting our attention and anticipation to our yards; specifically, the turf grass and what all needs to be done to help it up and growing. The following is a lawn calendar for Zoysia grass and Bermuda grass and Buffalo grass, which are all warm-season grasses.

March

Spot treat broadleaf weeds if necessary. The most important treatment for broadleaf weeds should be in late October to early November well after the grass is dormant. Treatments are much more effective at that time rather than in the spring as the weeds are smaller and are in the process of sending energy (as well as the herbicide), to the roots. Treatments in March are to take care of any “escapes” missed in the fall spraying. Spray early enough in March that the warm-season turf is still dormant. Look at the base of the plants to make sure there is no green. Treat on a day that is 50° F or warmer if possible. Rain or irrigation within 24 hours of application will reduce effectiveness.

April

Here in the Cottonwood Extension District (Ellis and Barton Counties), apply crabgrass preventer between April 1 and April 15, or apply preventer when the eastern redbud is approaching full bloom. If using a product with prodiamine (Barricade), apply two weeks earlier. Crabgrass preventers must be watered in before they will start to work. If you have Buffalo grass and it is starting to green up, avoid using *broad-leaf* herbicides as injury can result. The Buffalo grass will not be killed but growth will slow making the Buffalo grass less competitive with weeds.

May – August 15

Fertilize with 1 lb. of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per application. With Zoysia grass and Bermuda grass, the first application can be done in May or in June. For Buffalo grass, the best time for the first application of fertilizer is June. If the Buffalo grass seems to need a second application, then apply it in July. As always, follow the recommendations on the bag. More applications will give a deeper green color, but will also increase the mowing frequencies and lead to thatch buildup with Zoysia grass. Bermuda grass can also have problems with thatch buildup but thatch is less likely with Bermuda than Zoysia.

Bermuda grass – Use two to four applications of fertilizer.

Zoysia grass and buffalo grass– Use one to two applications. Too much nitrogen leads to thatch buildup.

If one application: Apply in June.

If two Applications: Apply May and July.

If three Applications: Apply May, June, and early August.

If four Applications: Apply May, June, July, and early August

June

If grubs have been a problem in the past, apply a product containing imidacloprid by mid-July. Imidacloprid can be applied as early as mid-May if there are problems with billbugs or May beetle grubs. These products kill the grubs before they cause damage. They are effective and safe but must be watered in before they become active. Again, I would only treat if grubs have been a problem in the past. Note that the whole area may not need to be treated. June is a good time to core aerate a warm-season lawn. Core aeration will help alleviate compaction, increase the rate of water infiltration, improve soil air exchange and help control thatch.



Farewell From Linda Beech

Retiring May 31, 2018

Dear Extension friends,

After 39 years of serving Extension clientele in northwest and southwest Kansas, I have announced my plan to retire on May 31, 2018. I have thoroughly enjoyed working in Hodgeman, Stevens, Finney and Ellis Counties—and now in the Cottonwood Extension District—but it is time to shift my focus to other priorities.

This change will allow me to enjoy more time with my new grandson, make plans for my daughter's August wedding, and travel to my husband's class reunion in upstate New York this summer. My husband, my children and I are excited for this new chapter in our lives and all the adventures it will bring.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the people of Ellis County for 6 1/2 years and Barton County for the last year. Being an Extension agent is all I have wanted to do since the 8th grade, and I am extremely grateful to the Extension board members and program participants over the years who gave me the chance to develop and share my professional skills. Leaving K-State Research and Extension is bittersweet, but now it is time to shift my attention to my family, since they are the ones who supported me and allowed me to devote myself wholeheartedly to my Extension work over the years.

I hope you will come and celebrate with me at a retirement reception on Friday, May 18, from 4:00-6:00 pm in the Commission Room on the lower level of the County Administrative Building, 718 Main in Hays. There will be a short presentation at 5:30 pm. We hope you can join us!

I have programs planned through the 3rd week of May, so there is still much to do in Extension family and consumer sciences in the Cottonwood District. I look forward to sharing the last two months of my career with you.

Sincerely,



Linda K. Beech
Cottonwood District Extension Agent,
Family and Consumer Sciences



Family and Consumer Science

Linda Beech & Donna Krug

Healthy Cooking Styles

Have you ever tried sautéing with water or prepared a boiled salad? It is easy to get in a rut and prepare the same foods in the same way. The food you eat should be delicious and satisfying, as well as nutritious. Join Donna Krug on Tuesday, April 3rd, at noon, at the Extension Office Meeting Room, 601 Main in Hays, for this free educational program. Donna wrote this K-State Research and Extension fact sheet that highlights five healthy cooking styles and cutting techniques. Give the Hays office a call at 785-628-9430 to register. Several recipes are included in the fact sheet and samples will be shared.

Servsafe Manager National Certification Course

Wednesday, April 11
8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Location: Russell
County Fair Building,
702 Fairway Drive,
Russell, KS



The ServSafe program is a national certification program designed to teach safe food handling practices to those who serve food to the public. ServSafe in Kansas is provided by K-State Research & Extension in partnership with the Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association (KRHA).

A regional Servsafe Manager Certification Course will be held in Russell to educate food handlers in northwest Kansas. Neeley Carlson, KRHA, will be the course instructor.

The cost for the course is \$113 for KRHA members or \$133 for non-KRHA members and includes the Servsafe 7th edition textbook, national certification exam, training materials and refreshments. The course is taught in English, however exams in other languages are available. Please note language preference in registration.

Pre-registration is requested in advance to allow for ordering books and materials. Mail registration and payment to KRHA or register online with a credit card at www.krha.org. A minimum attendance is required to hold this class.

Print a registration brochure at www.cottonwood.ksu.edu or call the Extension Office in Hays at 785-628-9430 or Great Bend at 620-793-1910.

Walk KS Celebrations Set

Calling all Walk KS teams in the Cottonwood Extension District! We're celebrating the midway point of this fitness challenge with a Pep Rally complete with door prizes. Join Donna and Linda at the Big Creek Crossing Mall in Hays Friday, April 13th at noon, for a short educational program and a progressive lunch. Registered Walk KS participants will receive their healthy lunch free of charge. Others may participate for a \$5 fee. Please meet in the Mall center court in front of JCPenney's. Look for the purple KSRE tablecloth and KSRE staff!



Celebrate the conclusion of another successful Walk KS campaign at a Wise-bucks luncheon set for Wednesday, May 9th, at noon, at the Burnside Room, 1214 Stone, in Great Bend. Donna will be on hand to share information about the benefits of regular exercise. Registered Walk KS participants will receive their healthy lunch free of charge. Others may participate for a \$5 fee.

Call or e-mail the Hays office by Tuesday, April 10th if you plan to join us for the Pep Rally. Contact the Great Bend office by Monday, May 7th if you plan to attend the Wise-bucks luncheon.

Real World 101 at FHSU

Tuesday, April 17, 7:00- 8:00 pm
Cody Commons, FHSU Student
Union

The Ellis County Extension Community Development program committee is partnering with Hays Area Young Professionals and Fort Hays State University to present "Real World 101," a program to help college students ease their transition into the "real world."

Students will learn about the Kansas Department of Commerce "Rural Opportunity Zones, Opportunities for YOU" and their benefit for student debt repayment. They will also receive real-life financial information and advice from a local financial planner. This free program is informative for anyone entering the "real world" soon-- because growing up isn't easy!



Saving Dollars When You Don't Have a Dime to Spare

Thursday, April 19, 6:00 pm

Hays Public Library, 1205 Main Street, Hays



Think it is impossible to save money? It's not how much you make, but how you choose to spend and save that makes the difference. For example, one person might be financially stressed on a six-figure income while another may build a nest egg on a very modest income. This program will help you recognize how even small expenditures can add up over time and will encourage money-saving behavior changes so you can find money to save, even when you think you don't have a dime to spare. Cottonwood District FCS Agent Linda Beech will be the instructor for this class.

Emergent Literacy: Helping Children's Development Through Reading

Wednesday, April 25

1:30-2:30 pm

Hays Public Library, 2015 Main Street, Hays

Children become readers and writers through a continuous developmental process called emergent literacy. While each person learns to read differently, research shows that building emergent literacy skills can be done intentionally and provides great fun for both the adult and child. The most important aspect of the process is to read WITH the child, as opposed to reading TO the child. Join us for this free Extension program to learn how it is done.

Dr. Bradford Wiles, Extension Child Development specialist, will be the guest speaker for this program, which is suitable for parents, grandparents, child care providers and early childhood professionals.

Pre-registration is helpful to ensure adequate program materials. Call the Hays office at 785-628-9430 to sign up for this program and learn to set the stage for future development of the children in your life.

Cooking Under Pressure is Popular Topic

If you received an electric pressure cooker for Christmas or are thinking about getting one, you will want to mark your calendar for Thursday, April 26th, and join Donna Krug at the Hays Public Library meeting room at 6:30 p.m. for this free educational program. The class will cover several of the functions as well as how to make bread and even



cake in your pressure cooker. Terms like "natural pressure release" and "quick pressure release" as well as food safety measures that need to take place to ensure a safe product will also be covered. We'd like to know how many people plan to attend the program on the 26th, so call the Cottonwood Extension District – Hays office at 785-628-9430 to register. There will be a handout with recipes and several items to sample.

StoryWalk Events Set in Great Bend

Join Donna Krug and her helpers at the Great Bend Recreation Activity Center, 2715 18th Street, for a StoryWalk adventure. Books are displayed on white boards as children walk in the area surrounding the My BackYard Playground. The goal of StoryWalk is to read and exercise together with your child. Mark the following dates on your calendar and bring your preschool through age 12 children to this free activity. No pre-registration is required.

April 18th, 10-11:30 a.m.—book title "If You Give a Cat a Cupcake"

May 16th, 10-11:30 a.m. – book title "We're Making Breakfast for Mother"

Jun 20th, 10-11:30 a.m. – book title "What Pet Should I Get?"

Servsafe Food Handlers Short Course

Thursday, May 17

1:30 to 4:30 pm

Commission Room (lower level),
County Administrative Center, 718 Main, Hays
Instructor- Linda Beech, District FCS Agent



This training covers basic food safety, personal hygiene, food allergens, preventing cross-contamination, time and temperature controls, and cleaning and sanitation. This course is appropriate for commercial food service employees, non-profits and volunteers.

The cost for the course is \$10 per person and includes the Servsafe Food Handlers manual, training materials and refreshments. This class has no formal exam and does not provide national certification, however, a certificate of attendance will be provided to each participant. Register and pay fees at the Hays Extension Office by May 3 to allow for ordering training materials and class supplies. Drop-ins cannot be accommodated for this class. Enrollment is considered complete when fees are paid.

For questions or to register, contact the Hays Extension Office, 785-628-9430.



Agriculture

Alicia Boor & Stacy Campbell

Tractor Safety Course –April 12 & April 14-Great Bend

One of the most important programs I give is a hazardous occupation course for teenagers. Agriculture is a family-based business, and children are around dangerous situations from a very young age.

One way to make a situation less dangerous is education, learning what the dangers may be and how to avoid putting yourself in a position that has a greater likelihood of getting hurt.

On April 12th from 6-8:30 pm and also April 14th from 8 am-5pm, Cottonwood Extension District in Great Bend will hold its annual Tractor Safety class for youth ages 13-18. This class is required for teens ages 14-15 that are planning to work on a farm other than their immediate relatives. It is encouraged for any youth that are going to be working around the farm or large machinery to also complete a tractor safety course. Farm accidents are the cause of 120,000 injuries a year and children are at a high danger when working on a farm or ranch. The 2-day course will cover the various risks that are on a farm as well as give young people the information they need to be safe when working. **Cost is \$15** and that covers the book, snacks and lunch on Saturday. Call the Extension office at 620-793-1910 to register for the class.

If you would like any more information about this opportunity for learning, please contact the Extension office for more information by calling 620-793-1910 or email me at aboor@ksu.edu.



Tractor/Farm Safety Course on April 28-Hill City

K-State Research and Extension will be offering a Hazardous Occupation Safety Training (HOSTA) or Tractor and Farm Safety Course. This will be held Saturday, April 28 in the 4-H Building at the Graham County Fairgrounds in Hill City, Kansas. Class will start at 8:00 a.m. and conclude at 5:00 p.m.

This is a very basic course that will cover farm and machinery safety. It is required by the United States Department of Labor to allow youth 14-15 years of age the opportunity to work on farms, for pay, for someone other than their parents. There are several instances where youth may be required to take the training even though they are working on the “family farm.” If the parent is a partner or member of a farm corporation or if the youth is legally employed by grandparents, the law requires the youth to participate in the tractor safety course. Employers who plan to hire youth must realize that they cannot hire youth under 16 years of age without those youth taking this safety course.

A fee of \$15 is due at the time of the training. This includes refreshments, lunch and check-out of the student manual.

If you are going to work for someone, if you are a parent of a working child, or an employer, contact your county’s Extension Office. RSVP is April 25. You will need to pick up the H.O.S.T.A Student Manual for review before the class. Ellis County youth interested should register call 785-628-9430 or stop by the Cottonwood Extension Office, 601 Main Street, Hays.

Annual Barton County Wheat Plot Field Day

Mark your calendar for the Barton County Wheat Variety Plot Field Day on Thursday, May 24 beginning at 6 p.m.

There are 15 varieties of wheat planted side by side. Everyone is invited to come hear about each varieties strengths and weaknesses from Extension specialist. There is always something in the plot to see and learn from, whether it is about the individual varieties, insects or diseases that are sometimes spotted in the plot.

This year’s plot cooperater is Terry Reif. Location of the field day—from Hoisington go N. on blacktop to Susank; at Susank go 4 miles E. on the blacktop 190 NE Rd., then 1 mile N on NE 40 to 200 Ave. turn E on 200 and go about 3/8 mile.

Immediately following the field day there will be a free meal and refreshments location TBA.

RSVP is requested for meal count by Tuesday, May 22nd call the Great Bend office at 620-793-1910 or email Brenda bwalton@ksu.edu



Annual Ellis County Wheat Plot Field Day

Wheat growers make plans to attend the Ellis County Wheat Variety Plot Field Day on Thursday, May 31st beginning at 6:00 p.m.



This year's demonstration plot has 13 varieties planted side by side. Come hear what Extension specialist have to say about each variety. There is always something in the plot to see and learn from, whether it is about the individual varieties, insects or diseases that are sometimes spotted in the plot.

Once again the plot was planted on L & N Farming's ground. Directions from I-70 take the Victoria exit 168 go 2.5 miles N. on Cathedral Ave./HWY. 255, turn W. onto Fairground Rd. go 1.5 mile. From Catharine go 1/2 E. turn S. onto 310, go 1 mile and turn E. onto Fairground Rd., go 1.5 miles.

As always thanks to the sponsorship of businesses. A tasty free meal and refreshments will immediately follow the field day in Victoria at the city park, beside the swimming pool on Iron Street.

All interested people are invited to attend. No RSVP necessary. In case of inclement weather, it will be held at the VFW Hall in Victoria, 204 E. Main Street.

2017 Kansas Summer Annual Forage Hay and Silage Variety Trial results now available

The results of the 2017 Kansas Performance Tests with summer annual forage hay varieties are available online at <http://www.agronomy.k-state.edu/services/crop-performance-tests/forages/2017-summer-forages-performance-tests.html>. The results are summarized by location and are split into hay and silage categories. The following paragraphs are excerpts taken from the 2017 Forage Report. The full 2017 Forage Report will soon be available online at <http://newprairiepress.org/kaesrr/>.

Summer annual forage performance tests are conducted each year by the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station. The objectives of the Kansas Summer Annual Forage Variety Trial are to evaluate the performance of released and experimental varieties, determine where these varieties are best adapted, and increase the visibility of summer annual forages in Kansas. Breeders, marketers, and producers use data collected from the trials to make informed variety selections. The Summer Annual Forage Trial is planted at locations across Kansas based on the interest of those entering varieties into the test.

In 2017, summer annual forage variety trials were conducted across Kansas near Garden City, Hays, Mound

Valley, and Scandia. All sites evaluated included hay and silage entries. Companies were able to enter varieties into any possible combinations of research sites, so not all sites had all varieties. Across the sites, a total of 61 hay varieties and 66 silage varieties were evaluated. In general, the 2017 growing season saw below-normal mean temperatures during the first part of August and below-normal growing season precipitation. The exception was Mound Valley, which had above-normal growing season precipitation. Hays and Scandia largely relied on stored soil water for crop growth resulting in little regrowth and no second harvest in those hay tests..

This work was funded in part by the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station and seed suppliers. Sincere appreciation is expressed to all participating researchers and seed suppliers who have a vested interest in expanding and promoting annual forage production in the U.S.

CHECKING ALFALFA FOR WINTER INJURY

Alfalfa will soon green up and start to grow in many areas. At least those plants that survived the winter.

Alfalfa usually comes through the winter in pretty good shape in our area, so rarely do I worry much about it. And I hope we will avoid serious losses this year.

But this has been an unusual winter. The lack of snow cover earlier this winter when we experienced sub-zero temperatures could have permitted cold injury. Or more likely, it enabled dry winter winds to dry out and kill some exposed plants, especially in areas that were dry last fall. In addition, more fields than usual were cut during alfalfa's winterizing period last fall, increasing their risk of winter injury.

Evaluate your own stands early this spring. Older, dry-land fields that have fewer than 30 new shoots per square foot coming from 2 or 3 plants may need to be planted soon to a different crop and new fields planted to alfalfa. Very productive sites, such as irrigated and sub-irrigated fields, should have at least 40 shoots per square foot from 4 to 6 plants. Anything less is a strong candidate for rotation. We tend to lose about one tenth of a ton in yield potential for every shoot below these recommended numbers.

Check for these densities in several areas of your fields when the early shoots are 4 to 6 inches tall. Since some shoots begin growing later than others, stands with enough plants but slightly low shoot density may be alright, especially if shoot height and distribution is fairly uniform. But, if plant density is low, or shoot growth is not uniform, yields probably will be lowered.

Check your alfalfa stands soon after growth begins. Then you will still have time to make any needed changes in your cropping plans.

ADDING GRASS TO THINNING ALFALFA

Thin alfalfa stands could potentially be rejuvenated by interseeding grasses and converting them to pasture or haying as a grass-alfalfa mixture.

Most alfalfa fields start to lose stand and production ability after cutting hay for several years. Sometimes winterkill thins stands. As your stands begin to get thin, consider interseeding grasses into this thinning alfalfa. Not only might you extend the useful life of your alfalfa field, you also could potentially develop excellent hay or grazing for your livestock.

The most common grasses that potentially could be interseeded into alfalfa in our area are smooth brome and intermediate wheatgrass.

You must get these new seedlings off to an early start, so be sure to interseed as soon as soils thaw and conditions allow tractor and drills to operate properly. If your alfalfa still is relatively thick and vigorous, also take a very early hay cutting well before buds form.

This will allow sunlight to continue to reach new seedlings below the alfalfa. Then use your good judgement regarding competition from the existing alfalfa for subsequent hay cuts. If precipitation allows, by mid- to late summer you could be able to start to graze rotationally. The new seedlings won't contribute much forage

this year, but next year they should be a welcome addition.

Interseeding grass into existing alfalfa takes timely planting, haying and precipitation, but both land and livestock can improve with your efforts.

Kansas Mesonet – Weather Data Library

The network of 58 weather stations in Kansas known as the "Kansas Mesonet" was founded in 1986 by K-State Research & Extension. The state's largest industry and primary user of the data is the agriculture industry. Observed weather is often used for estimating planting dates, determining irrigation, projecting crop yields and more.

They have added enhanced soil temperature data to the Kansas Mesonet network of stations. The new Soil Temperature page for the 2018 growing season still displays the past week's average but it also includes the average minimum and average maximum soil temperatures at both two and four inches. In addition, it is now updated three times per hour, giving a real-time look at soil temperatures throughout the state. Go to www.mesonet.k-state.edu

WHAT PRODUCERS SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT IN MAY.....

BEEF -- Tips by Dale Blasi, Extension Beef Specialist

Breeding season is beginning or continuing for many operations; therefore, both females and males must be reproductively fit.

- 1) Several estrus synchronization procedures have been developed. To determine the correct synchronization program to use, consider the following: age group of females (yearling replacement heifers vs. cows), commitment of time and efforts for heat detection, potential number of females that are anestrus (days postpartum, body condition, calving difficulty), labor availability, and the return on investment for total commitment to the breeding program.
- 2) Handle semen properly and use correct AI techniques to maximize fertility.
- 3) Natural service bull should have body condition, eyes, feet, legs and reproductive parts closely monitored during the breeding season. Resolve any problems immediately.
- 4) All bulls should have passed a breeding soundness examination prior to turnout.
- 5) Begin your calf preconditioning program. Vaccination, castration and parasite control at a young age will decrease stress at weaning time. This is a time to add value to the calf crop.
- 6) Implanting calves older than 60 days of age will increase weaning weight.
- 7) Properly identify all cows and calves. Establish premises numbers for compliance with state and national programs.
- 8) Use best management practices (BMPs) to establish sustainable grazing systems.
- 9) Use good management practices when planting annual forage sources and harvesting perennial forages.
- 10) Maintain records that will verify calving season, health programs, and management practices.





4-H Youth Development

Susan Schlichting & Berny Unruh



The Monarchs on the Move grant program is moving along! The National 4-H Council and Ag Innovator Experience training was held on Saturday, March 17th at the Ag Research Center in Hays. Lynne Campbell, Extension Specialist from Iowa State University, was the guest presenter. Lynne provided real life examples of the monarch butterfly's lifecycle from the USDA monarch-rearing facility in Ames. The actual monarch butterflies, caterpillars and chrysalis were a great addition to the learning.



The three teen leaders selected to lead the training, Brett Droegemeier and Brittani Park from Hays and Lexi Straub from Ellinwood, planned the training day and lead portions of the program. Brittani shared information about the migration of the monarchs to Mexico in the fall and its migration back to the United States and Canada in the spring. Brett taught about the use of drones to map areas and to evaluate a landscape to identify opportunities to increase biodiversity. Lexi assisted the nineteen trainees in building a model to help teach the life stages of a monarch butterfly and the difficulties of survival as a monarch caterpillar.



These programs are designed to help youth understand the collaborative effort required to increase monarch habitat and thus contribute to sustainable monarch populations. Now that twenty-two 4-H junior leaders have been trained, each of them are challenged with the task to teach and engage 50 other young people. The activity will be taught in school classrooms, 4-H club meetings, afterschool programs, and other activities where youth are willing to learn!

Others teens trained are: Barton Co.—Steele Brack, Noah Deines, Ivan Gutierrez, Elsilada Lopez, Dathan Proffit, Caden Rowan, Alaina Straub, Chelsea Villarreal, Natalie Williams, Jayla Wyant; Ellis Co.—Rosston Eckroat, Megan Howe, Devlyn Jochum, Luke Montgomery, Karli and Kaleb Neher, Alexia Oxenford, Kimberly Sack and Bryce Wasinger. They are looking for youth groups to teach. If you are aware of a group who might like to participate in this learning experience, contact the local Extension Office.



“March Madness” 4-H Style

March is always a crazy month in the 4-H world, and this March is no exception!



We started out the month with **4-H Club Day**. It’s a great event that allows 4-H members to showcase what they’re learning in their 4-H projects while building their confidence in presenting in front of an audience. Youth as young as 5 years get up and “Show and Tell” about something they like. There was the pet rabbit, Angel, and the Mosasaur tooth shared proudly by two young “Cloverbuds” at this year’s event. At the other end of the speaking spectrum were the Extemporaneous Speeches put



together by the teens. They drew for a topic and had 10 minutes to prepare a speech on that topic for presentation to a judge. There were music numbers and dramatic readings and the club skit. Each of these presentations helps 4-H members learn important communication skills they will rely upon for the rest of their lives.



Next came **Super 4-H Saturday**. This event is held in conjunction with FHSU and is a Western KS 4-H tradition. Extension Agents and volunteers from across the region work together to organize and carry out a day filled with judging contests, project workshops and volunteer training opportunities. Families from across Kansas traveled to Hays to take part. Volunteers got to meet with new 4-H Volunteer Specialist, Shane Potter as he begins his work with Kansas 4-H.



Then there was the **Monarchs on the Move Teen Leader Training** that you read about on the previous page. What a great group of young leaders. They spent the first day of their Spring Break vacation engaged in learning about the lifecycle of Monarch butterflies. We are excited to watch this group of 22 teens grow in their leadership skills as they plan, carry out and evaluate a variety of workshops for youth of all ages.



There was the **Ag Safety Awareness Program** sponsored by the local KSU Ag Research Center, Cottonwood Extension District and the Ellis Co. Farm Bureau Association for area High School students. They learned about safe ways to handle livestock, ATV safety, fire safety and handling chemicals.



Next was **Fiber Fun Day**. This day was planned by area Extension staff and volunteers to expose youth to a variety of skills. From learning about how wool becomes clothing to how to run a sewing machine, this group of nearly 80 youth from across Central Kansas was very engaged in the creative learning process. They took time during the day to help with a sewing service project as well, completing 50 pillowcases for donation to the Central Kansas Dream Center in Great Bend.



We started **robotic workouts** this month. 7 teams of middle school students began building and programming robots in preparation for a competition at FHSU on April 16.

This project brings together engineering, computer programming, problem solving and team skills.

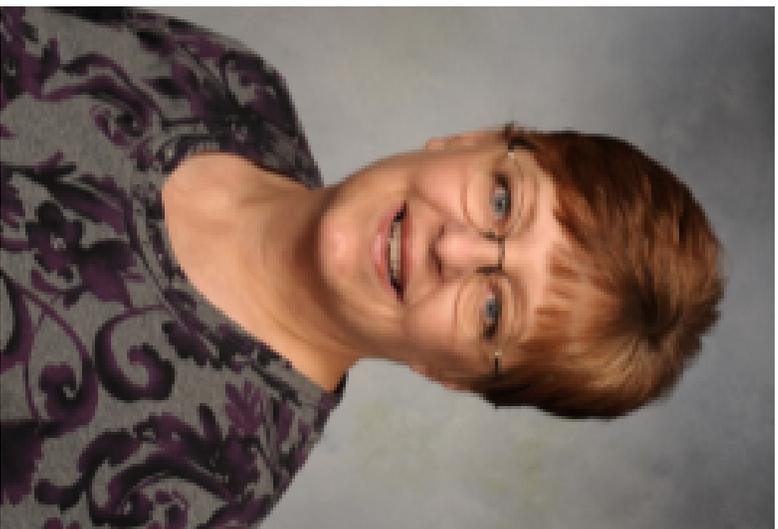


Finally, **NW SpaceTech day** in Ness City wrapped up a month filled with learning experiences. Here our teen leaders led sessions for younger 4-H’ers in the areas of rockets, robots and drones. This is a great place for teens to build leadership skills while sharing what they enjoy with younger members and parents.



March really is one of the best months of the year in the 4-H world!! Getting to work directly with the youth and volunteers and engage them in meaningful learning experiences is what 4-H Agents live for. And as you can see, the wide variety of learning opportunities shown here is just a sampling of the many ways youth can grow their skills through involvement in 4-H!

Visit www.cottonwood.ksu.edu or our Cottonwood Extension District Facebook page to learn more about the opportunities 4-H has to offer to you and your family.



***Honoring 39 years of service
as an Extension educator in
four Kansas counties***

Cards and letters may be sent to:

Cottonwood District-Hays Office
601 Main Street, Suite A
Hays, KS 67601



K·STATE
Research and Extension



Retirement
Celebration
for

Linda Beech

Extension Family

Consumer Science Agent

Friday, May 18th

4:00-6:00 pm come & go

Presentations at 5:30 p.m.

Commission Room-lower level of
the County Administrative
Building, 718 Main, Hays

Hazardous Occupations Training

2017 Tractor Safety Class (2– session class)
Session #1: Thursday April 12th 6:00-8:30 PM
Straub International, Hwy 56 & Airport Rd.
Session # 2: Saturday April 14th 8:00 AM -5:00 PM
Barton Community College T-186
CNH Training Facility

*Get legal! If you are 14-15 years old and planning to do farm work for someone other than a parent or legal guardian, **you must** take a Tractor Safety Course according to the U.S. Dept. of Labor requirements.*



Requirements :

- 14-15 Years old (youth 13-18 are encouraged to attend)
- \$15 registration fee-lunch, snacks and materials are included in the fee
- Registration due by April 9th

For more information call 620-793-1910
Please fill out below information and return to:
Cottonwood Extension District, Great Bend Office
1800 12th St, Great Bend, KS 67530

Enrollee's Name _____ Age _____ DOB ____/____/____
Parent's Name _____
Address _____
Phone # Home _____ Cell _____
Enrollee's Social Security # _____
Employer's Name (if known) _____

Hazardous Occupation Training

April 28, 2018

8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Graham County 4-H Building
Hill City, KS



**\$15 for Manual Rental, Lunch,
& Refreshments**

(Additional \$15 to buy the manual)

You must bring:

- Manual
- Pen/Pencil
- Willing Attitude!

**To Register, Contact Your Local
Extension Office by April 25th:**

Cottonwood District

Ellis: 785-628-9430

Golden Prairie District

Trego: 785-743-6361

Gove: 785-938-4480

Twin Creeks District

Decatur: 785-475-8121

Norton: 785-877-5755

Sheridan: 785-675-3268

Graham County

785-421-3411

This program will provide the trainee with the knowledge and information of tractor safety and farm hazards. A safety training is required by the U.S. Department of Labor for youth ages 14-15 who will be working on a farm for someone other than their parents. However, there are many cases where youth need certification even when working on the "family farm". Certification will be presented to participants who meet all of the following:

- Attend the entire session
- Complete all assignments
- Successfully complete a tractor safety exam
- Safely demonstrate the ability to operate a tractor and all its controls according to safe operating procedures under the supervision of a parent or employer
- Youth ages 14-15 years (others will receive certification at the time they turn 14)

**FOR ALL YOUTH AGES 13-15
WHO WILL BE WORKING
ON A FARM**

K-STATE
Research and Extension

Kansas State University 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, contact Twin Creeks Extension District, 785-475-8121.
Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service
K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

REAL WORLD 101

WHEN

Tuesday, April 17th
7-8 pm

WHERE

FHSU Memorial Union
Basement

WHY

Because Growing Up
Isn't Easy



FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Forward thinking. World ready.

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Commerce
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Psychology

ADMISSION

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Get good tips from
great leaders!



K-STATE
Research and Extension

Kansas State University, County Extension Councils, Extension districts, and U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.

All educational programs and materials are available without discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

Cottonwood Extension District Staff

Great Bend Office



Donna Krug
District Director
Family and Consumer Science
dkrug@ksu.edu



Alicia Boor
Agriculture and Natural Resources
aboor@ksu.edu



Berny Unruh
4-H and Youth Development
bunruh@ksu.edu

Rip Winkel
Horticulture
rwinkel@ksu.edu



Hays Office

Linda Beech
Family and Consumer Science
lbeech@ksu.edu



Stacy Campbell
Agriculture and Natural Resources
scampbell@ksu.edu



Susan Schlichting
4-H and Youth Development
sschlich@ksu.edu



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www.cottonwood.ksu.edu



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Ellis County Extension Master Gardeners