“Whether you are growing one plant or one acre of plants, there is something new in every K-State Garden Hour to learn, “ horticulture agent Matthew McKernan said. “Gardening in Kansas is not easy. Between the scorching heat, bitter cold, drought, strong winds and insect or disease problems, there are many challenges for Kansas gardeners. Each K-State Garden Hour shares tips and tricks on how to avoid many of these common problems.”

Organizers have set the schedule for the summer (May 5 through June 16) series. The programs planned and a description of each is available online and you can also go and register there as well.

https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/info-center/k-state-garden-hour-webinar-series/k_state_garden_hour.html

Recordings of last year’s and this year’s sessions also are available
Calibrating Your Sprayer

Three variables affect sprayer output: nozzle flow rate, ground speed of the sprayer, and width sprayed per nozzle.

Nozzle Flow Rate. Nozzle flow rate increases when a nozzle has a larger orifice, the nozzle pressure is increased, or the density of the spray liquid is decreased. Manufacturer flow rate charts are based on water’s ability to flow, so adjustments are necessary when using materials other than water, such as 28 percent nitrogen fertilizer, as the main carrier. To increase nozzle output, multiply the pressure by the square of the desired increase in flow rate. In other words, simply doubling the pressure does not double the nozzle flow rate. To double the flow rate, the pressure must be increased 4 times. For example, to double the flow rate of a nozzle (with an “04” orifice) from 0.24 gallons per minute at 15 pounds per square inch (psi) to 0.48 gallons per minute, the pressure must be increased to 60 psi (4 × 15).

Pressure changes should not be used for major adjustments in the flow rate, but pressure can be changed to remedy minor variations in flow rate resulting from nozzle wear. To obtain a uniform spray pattern and minimize drift, the operating pressure must be maintained within the recommended range for each nozzle.

Ground Speed. Spray application rate varies inversely with ground speed, so doubling the ground speed of the sprayer reduces the gallons of spray applied per acre (gpa) by one half. For example, a sprayer that applies 20 gpa at 6 miles per hour (mph) would apply 10 gpa if the speed were increased to 12 mph while the pressure remained constant. To apply pesticides accurately, proper ground speed must be maintained and measured accurately.

Width Sprayed Per Nozzle. The effective width sprayed per nozzle affects spray application rates. Doubling the effective width sprayed per nozzle decreases applied gpa by one half. For example, when applying 20 gpa with flat fan nozzles on 20-inch spacings, flooding nozzles with the same flow rate on 40-inch spacings will decrease the application rate from 20 gpa to 10 gpa. A larger spray width means a smaller gpa application rate when combined with a constant flow rate.

The gallons of spray material applied per acre and nozzle output in gallons per minute are determined with the following spray equations:

- **Equation 1** - Determine the gallons of spray applied per acre:
  \[ \text{gpa} = \frac{\text{gpm} \times 5,940}{\text{mph} \times W} \]

- **Equation 2** - Use this equation to determine the gallons per minute required for the spraying conditions and the nozzle orifice size needed:
  \[ \text{gpm} = \frac{\text{gpa} \times \text{mph} \times W}{5,940} \]

Steps to select the correct size of nozzle orifice:
1. Using the label, select the spray application rate in gallons per acre or gallons per 1,000 square feet.
2. Select or measure an appropriate ground speed in mph (see Equation 4).
3. Determine the effective width sprayed per nozzle (W) in inches.
   - For broadcast spraying, \( W = \text{the nozzle spacing} \)
   - For band spraying, \( W = \text{the band width} \)
   - For row crop applications or band spraying with multiple nozzles per band, such as spraying from drop pipes or directed spraying, \( W = \text{row spacing (or band width)} \times \text{number of nozzles per row (or band)} \)
4. Using Equation 2, determine the flow rate required from each nozzle in gpm.
5. Select a nozzle orifice size that gives the determined flow rate when operated within the recommended pressure range as stated in the manufacturer’s catalog.
6. Using Equation 3, convert the required flow rate for each nozzle to ounces/minute (opm).
7. Collect the output from one nozzle by spraying into a container marked in ounces for one minute. Adjust the pressure until the collected opm is the same as the previously determined amount.
8. Determine the amount of pesticide needed for the acreage to be sprayed. Add the pesticide to a tank partially filled with carrier (water, fertilizer, etc.).
9. Operate the field sprayer at the ground speed measured in Step 2, the pressure determined in Step 7, and the application rate selected in Step 1. After spraying a known number of acres or square feet, check the liquid level in the tank to verify that the application rate is correct.
10. Check the nozzle flow rate frequently because nozzle wear or other conditions can cause changes in nozzle output. Replace the nozzle tips and recalibrate when the output has changed 5 to 7 percent or more from a new nozzle or when the spray pattern has become uneven.

**Equation 3** - To convert gallons per minute (gpm) to ounces per minute (opm), use the following equation:
\[ \text{opm} = \text{gpm} \times 128 \] (1 gallon = 128 ounces)

**Equation 4** - Use the equation to determine ground speed:
\[ \text{Speed (mph)} = \frac{\text{distance (feet)} \times 60}{\text{time (seconds)} \times 88} \]

**Equation 1** - Determine the gallons of spray applied per acre:
\[ \text{gpa} = \frac{\text{gpm} \times 5,940}{\text{mph} \times W} \]

Where:
- \( \text{gpa} \) = gallons per acre
- \( \text{gpm} \) = output per nozzle in gallons per minute
- \( \text{mph} \) = ground speed in miles per hour
- \( \text{opm} \) = ounces per minute

Additional calibration information, including conversion factors for solutions other than water, is available in the K-State publication ‘Calibrating Boom Sprayers’, MF 2894.
Taking Advantage of Growth Implants at Branding

Growth-promoting implants are just another tool that beef producers can take advantage of to improve animal efficiency and performance. At branding, implants designed for use in suckling beef calves can be used to improve average daily gain (ADG) to result in heavier calves at weaning. However, there are scenarios where implants should not be used such as in a natural or organic beef program, or when bull calves will become natural service sires. Furthermore, if implanting heifers at branding that may become replacement heifers, a product deemed safe for use in replacement heifers must be used. When used correctly there is a payout however.

Research has shown significant improvements in average daily gain of suckling beef calves implanted at branding. In a particular study by Selk (1997) determined that steers implanted once with various products had between a 3.8% and 5.6% ADG improvement, while heifers implanted with a product safe for use in replacements experienced a 7.5% improvement. It is however, important to note that environmental conditions have an impact on calf performance due to the implant. If the environment supports good calf growth, using implants is expected to improve calf growth compared to those implanted in poor environments. If feed resources are limited, creep feeding implanted calves is recommended so they can reach their full potential as a result of receiving growth-promoting implants.

Unfortunately not everyone is taking advantage. According to the NAHMS Beef Cow-Calf Management Practices survey (2007-08), of all beef cattle operations surveyed in the U.S. only 9.8% implanted any calves with growth-promotant before weaning. The same survey reported only 3.3% of heifer calves intended for replacements were implanted prior to weaning. These statistics illustrate how underutilized growth-promoting implants are within the beef industry. If there are no apparent reasons why implants cannot be used, a producer is forgoing the benefits of improved weaning weights.

If management programs or the production of breeding animals does not restrict use, implanting makes good economic sense. For approximately $1.50 per head, calves can be implanted at branding time and gain an additional 0.1 pound per day. If a calf is 60 days old at branding and then is 210 days at weaning, the increased growth due to the implant could result in an additional 15 pounds of weaning weight compared to a non-implanted calf. To illustrate the difference in value, consider a group of calves with an average weaning weight of 550 lbs compared to a group that had been implanted at branding weighing an average of 565 lbs. If you considered a sale price at weaning in the fall of $152.50/cwt (St. Francis Stockyards median sale price for calves between #550 and #600, 2020) that would result in an added value of $22.88 for the implanted calves. If the implant was purchased for $1.50 and there was an increased value of $22.88, this results in a net gain of $21.38.

While the economics are enticing, it has been mentioned that heifers intended for breeding purposes should not receive implants unless the product is labeled for use in replacements. This recommendation against implanting these animals is due to impacts that the added hormones can have on future reproductive performance. Research has suggested that groups of females implanted had reduced pregnancy rates compared to those that were not. This reduced performance worsens with additional implants received in life (Mathis, 2010). While this impact on heifer performance would strongly discourage implanting, the advantage of added weaning weight due to a single implant at branding may offset the slight decrease in pregnancy rate. With this information, it is recommended that only steers and heifers who will clearly not be retained as replacements be implanted at branding with the same product. Otherwise the disadvantages of using a single implant of a product labeled for use in replacements is minimal.

For best results, implants should be placed correctly in the ear so they will work correctly. For effective implantation the following guidelines should be followed:

- Place the implant pellets between the cartilage ribs in the middle third of the back side of the ear
- Place the implant between the skin and cartilage. The pellets should be able to be seen underneath the skin
- Use the correct implant gun for the product that is being used
- Pull back on the implant gun while squeezing the trigger, this will give the pellets a place to go

Implants are a low cost option to improve weaning weights that a producers should take advantage of if possible. If raising conventional calves that will not be used for reproductive purposes, growth hormones offer an advantage over calves left without implants. A producer should carefully research growth implant products to determine which fits best with their operation and then follow product directions to achieve optimum results.

For more information on growth implants, please visit or call the Cheyenne County Extension Office at (785)332-3171.

For more resources and event announcements, please follow us on Facebook at K-State Research and Extension Sunflower District.
Getting Spring Fever?

First let’s talk a little about your soil.

Most gardeners think that soil tests are done only to find out what nutrients are deficient. However, it is just as important to know if you have adequate levels of nutrients, so you don't add unneeded fertilizer.

The most basic soil test checks pH and the levels of phosphorus and potassium. Most of the lawn and garden soil tests that we send to get tested show more than adequate levels of both phosphorus and potassium.

If those nutrients are not needed, applying them is a waste of money and can be a source of pollution. In extreme cases, excess phosphorus can interfere with the uptake of micronutrients. So, if you haven't taken a soil test in several years, take one this spring. We have a testing probe in our county offices for you to borrow to get your soil samples.

Begin by taking a representative sample from a number of locations in the garden or lawn that goes from the surface to 6 to 8 inches deep. Mix the samples together in a clean container and select about 1 pint of soil.

Take the soil to your local K-State Research and Extension office to have tests done at the K-State soil-testing laboratory for a small fee. A soil test determines fertility problems, not other conditions that may exist such as poor drainage, poor soil structure, soil borne diseases or insects, chemical contaminants or damage, or shade with root competition from other plants. Soil samples should be air-dried before being submitted for testing. Also, be sure to use a clean container to collect the sample.

If you are starting a new flower garden or hard landscape, you could start rounding up items that you would like to use in your garden area, so they are ready to go when the time is right.

That’s when we get anxious to start working in our yards and gardens. But it might be a little early yet.

Inventory your Garden Tools.

A clean, sharp garden tool makes a big difference in performance and takes less time to maintain. Hand pruners kept in relatively good condition can be sharpened in about 10 minutes. Well-maintained tools provide a cleaner cut, are more rust resistant, and last longer than tools that do not receive proper care. Wooden handles are less likely to splinter or break with proper care.

Gardeners who spend 4 hours a week pruning may need to sharpen once or twice a year. If you need more information about cleaning tool’s we have a publication that might help you.

Talking about Spring:

Let’s get up and Start Moving!!!

This past year has been a real challenge for most of us, but it is Spring time and we can get outside to walk, ride the bike, work in your garden, etc.

When the whole family is involved in physical activities together, children learn that being active is fun and makes you feel good. And busy parents can combine family time with exercise time.

Working together as a family to prepare a list of activities you would like to do together is a starting point. Make sure your list of activities are things everyone can do and enjoy together.

Try to plan at least one activity a week to do together as a family. When family schedules get really busy, going for a walk or riding bikes together may be the easiest thing you can do.

Make physical activity a priority!!!
The Sunflower Extension District Youth didn’t let “Virtual” stop them from “Regional 4-H Club Days”

Where do you go from Regionals?

“TO THE STATE FAIR”
Age: 9 & Up

- Any demonstration illustrated or project talk receiving a superior rating in a county or district contest may be entered unless it has previously been entered in this contest or does not meet the guidelines.
- Any poetry or prose receiving a superior rating in a county or district contest may be entered unless it has previously been entered in this contest, or does not meet the guidelines.
- Effective communication and public speaking skills are vital to tomorrow’s leaders.
- If you ask 4-H alumni to name one of the most valuable life skills they learned during their 4-H careers, many would list the confidence gained through participating in 4-H public speaking. Effective communication and public speaking skills are vital to tomorrow’s leaders.
- Participation in speech and demonstration contests helps 4-H’ers master communication skills, become more independent, gain self-esteem and generously share their expertise.

TO THE STATE FAIR
Age: 9 & Up

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
Congratulations to all the Graduates!
Best wishes for the future and good luck.
From everyone at the Extension Office.

Domenic Baldwin will be participating in the State Pistol Contest on May 1st in Great Bend. We are excited that he has qualified and will represent Cheyenne County. Good Luck!

2021 Cheyenne County Fair Theme
“Grow It, Sew It, Show It”
Congratulations to the Go Getters for submitting the winning theme.

Please remember May 1 is on Saturday, we will not be in the Office.
May 1st Deadline includes-
Add/Drop projects
Heifer ID’s
Horse ID’s
State Market Beef Nominations

Results from Regional 4-H Day
Billeigh Hilt– Junior Dance– Blue
Carter Wilson– Intermediate Demonstration– Blue
Landyn Wilson– Junior Project Talk– Blue
Alexis Zimbelman– Gymnastics– Red
Intermediate Project Talk– Red
Wyatt Zimbelman– Junior Demonstration– Blue
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- **1**: State Air Pistol
- **9**: Happy Mother’s Day
- **15**: Discovery Day Registration Due
- **30**: Memorial Day
**Congratulations Graduates!**

*Ryan Berls *Trevor Daise
*Truman Hooker *Keyly Jarrett
*AJ McCary *Ashtin McClung

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### Important Dates

- **May 1**: Add/Drop 4-H Project Deadline
- **May 1**: Horse ID Papers Due
- **May 1**: Market Beef Nominations Due
- **May 1**: KS 4-H State Shooting Sports Match - Great Bend, KS
- **May 4**: Cloverbuds
- **May 5**: Foods
- **May 5**: 4-H Campference Registration Due
- **May 9**: Ruleton Eager Beavers
- **May 9**: Mothers Day
- **May 10**: Promotion Meeting
- **May 10**: 4-H Council
- **May 12**: Kids A Cookin'
- **May 14**: Aloha Day Camp Reg. Due
- **May 15**: Discovery Days Registration Due
- **May 16**: Sunflower 4-H
- **May 16**: Prairie Dale
- **May 17**: Country Clovers
- **May 18**: Cloverbuds
- **May 21**: Fishing Clinic Reg. Due
- **May 22**: High School Graduation
- **May 26**: Last Day of School
- **May 27**: Aloha Day Camp
- **May 31**: Memorial Day/ Ext. Office Closed

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### Summer Day Camps

- **Aloha Day Camp, May 27, 2021**
  - At the fairgrounds in Goodland
  - 8:00 - 12:45 PM MST for ages 6-10,
  - The cost is $5.00.
  - Registration is limited to 50 and due by Friday, May 14, 2021.

- **Fishing Clinic, June 3, 2021**
  - Transportation & lunch provided.
  - Open to ages 7-12. The cost is $6.00.
  - Meet at the Sherman County Fairgrounds no later than 8:00 AM MST.
  - The session runs from 8:00 AM – 1:30 PM, MST.
  - Registration is limited to 35 and due by Friday, May 21, 2021.

- **Kids A Cookin’, June 22, 23, & 24**
  - The class will take place
  - From 10:00 - 11:30 AM MST daily.
  - Sign up for the sessions you wish to attend.
  - Kids ages 8 –11,
  - Registration is limited to 20 daily and due by Friday, June 11, 2021.
  - There is no charge.
  - *Social Distancing & *Masks Required

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|        |        | 1.      | Add/Drop 4-H Project Deadline  
  Horse ID Paper  
  Market Beef Nominations Due  
  KS 4-H State Shooting Sports - Great Bend, KS |
| 2.     | 3.     | 4.      | Cloverbuds 4:00-5:00 PM MST  
  4-H Building |
| 9. Ruleton Eager Beavers 3:00 PM MST |
| 10.    | 11.    | 12.     | Kids A Cooking 3:30-5:00 PM MST  
  4-H Building |
| 13. Aloha Day Camp Registration Due By 5:00 PM MST |
| 16.    | 17.    | 18.     | Cloverbuds 4:00-5:00 PM MST  
  4-H Building |
| 19.    | 20.    | 21.     | Fishing Clinic Registration Due By 5:00 PM MST |
| 22. High School Graduation |
| 23.    | 24.    | 25.     | Last Day of School |
| 26.    | 27.    | 28.     | Aloha Day Camp 8:00-12:45 PM MST  
  4-H Building |
| 29.    | 30.    | 31.     | Extension Office Closed |

**Ruleton Eager Beavers**

Promotion Meeting  
6:00 PM MST  
4-H Council  
7:00 PM MST  
4-H Building

Country Closers 7:00 PM MST  
4-H Building

Discovery Day Registration Due
**Dates to Remember**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Horse IDs Due in office</td>
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<td>31– Memorial Day—office closed</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>1-4– Discovery Days—Virtual</td>
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<td>3– Fishing Clinic</td>
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<td>7– Babysitting Clinic—Sharon Springs</td>
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<td>9-12– 4-H Camp—Rock Springs</td>
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<td>14– Farm to Fork Day Camp—Sharon Springs</td>
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<td>29– Photography Camp—Sharon Springs</td>
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<td>28-July 1– Campference—Rock Springs</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>6– Circuit/Coding Camp—Sharon Springs</td>
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<td>23– Fair Clean-up</td>
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<td>24– Fair Horse Show</td>
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<td>26-31– Wallace County Fair</td>
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**Congrats Graduating Seniors!!**
Blakely Aldridge
Regan Stramel

**Day Camps in WA Co.**

- Babysitting Clinic—June 7
- Farm to Fork—June 14
- Photography Camp—June 29
- Circuit/Coding Camp—July 6

More information will be sent out when we get it. Call the Extension Office if you have any questions.

**2021 Regional Club Days Results**

**Blues**

- Bodie Larson—Jr. Project Talk
- Jensen Vandike—Int. Project Talk
- Hayden Stubbs—Int. Project Talk
- Ayden Aldridge—Int. Demos & Ill. Talks
- Addison Aldridge—Int. Demos & Ill. Talks

- Brennan Aldridge—Sr. Demo & ill. Talks
- Claire Walker-Helsel—Public Speaking
- Austin Smith—Int. Instrumental Solo
- Allison Smith—Jr. Reading
- Claire Walker-Helsel Sr. Reading

**2021 Wallace Co Fair Dates are**

**July 29-31**

“Surf the 4-H Wave”

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**May 1st Add/Drop 4-H Deadline**

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</table>
Goodland Office
Karen Nelson
4-H Youth Development Agent/Director
karennelson@ksu.edu

Sherri Keith
Office Professional
sherrik@ksu.edu

Sharon Springs Office
Melinda Daily
Family & Consumer Science Agent
mdaily@ksu.edu

Wendy Benisch
Office Professional
wbenisch@ksu.edu

St. Francis Office
Heather Foxworthy
Livestock Agent
hfoxwor@ksu.edu

Linda Elfers
Agent Assistant
lelfers@ksu.edu

K-State Northwest Research and Extension Center - Colby
Jeanne Falk Jones
Multi-County Agronomist for Cheyenne, Sherman, and Wallace Counties
jfalkjones@ksu.edu

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