Area Couple honored with the Kansas Master Farm Family Award

John and Sharon Hendricks have been involved in agriculture since they were young and continue to pass down valuable knowledge to their children and grandchildren. John hopes that “Through his experiences he has led by example and encouraged the next generation (s) to be fair, honest, and to do what’s right.”

After graduating from Kansas State University with a degree in agricultural mechanization and serving two years in the military during the Korean War, John returned to his family farm following his father’s death in 1973. Since John has taken up the farm from his father, it has expanded extensively and adopted new, improved agricultural practices.

Sharon graduated from Fort Hays State University with a degree in elementary education. After graduating, she taught second grade at Bird City Elementary before returning home to help the farm with her three sons.

The couple has three children, David, Chad and Nathan; and eight grandchildren.

Today, the Hendricks family farm grows corn, wheat, soybeans, and milo. To improve crop yield and lower labor requirements, they have adopted no-till and strip-till practices. The Hendricks use data from Farm Management, field days, conferences, readings, and farm research guides to assist in their decision-making processes. The farm has also been the recipient of the Cheyenne County Soil Conservation Bankers Award in 1976 and in 2007, and the Goodyear Award of Merit in 1987.

Family and work ethic are the foundations of the Hendricks family farm. They said: “While there is always work to be done on the farm, attending and supporting the children and grandchildren’s activities is a priority, and the work is not neglected, just done at a different time”.

Go to www.sunflower.ksu.edu for more details on these programs.
Fall Anhydrous Applications

As soil temperatures cool across the area, it becomes much more attractive for producers to apply anhydrous ammonia for their 2022 corn crop. Fall anhydrous applications have some appeal to producers. For one thing, fall fertilizer application spreads out the workload. Therefore, there’s more time to focus on corn planting in the spring. Secondly, wet conditions in the spring sometimes prevent producers from applying lower-cost anhydrous ammonia ahead of corn planting, and forces them to apply (potentially) more expensive sources after planting. Equally important this year will be anhydrous ammonia availability in the spring.

Keeping in mind those points, producers should be aware that there is potential for higher nitrogen (N) loss in the spring following a fall application, as a result of nitrification of the ammonium during late winter and very early spring and subsequent leaching or denitrification (denitrification is not common in northwest KS) (Figure 1).

Reactions of anhydrous ammonia in the soil

When anhydrous ammonia is applied to the soil, a large portion of the ammonia is converted to ammonium (NH$_4^+$), and can be bound to clay and organic matter particles within the soil. As long as the nitrogen remains in the ammonium form, it can be retained on the clay and organic matter, and does not readily move in most soils except sandy soils with very low CEC, so leaching is not an issue.

At soil temperatures above freezing, nitrification occurs - ammonium is converted by specific soil microbes into nitrate-N (NO$_3^-$). Since this is a microbial reaction, it is very strongly influenced by soil temperatures. The higher the temperature, the quicker the conversion will occur. Depending on soil temperature, pH, and moisture content, it can take 2-3 months or longer to convert all the ammonia applied in late summer/early fall to nitrate.

Nitrogen Fixation by Lightning

Animal Manures  Crop Residues  Ammonia Loss Through Leaves  Plant Uptake

Nitrogen Cycle

When considering fall application of N, keep in mind that loss of N during the fall and winter is not normally a problem in Kansas. The conversion of “protected” ammonium to “loss prone” nitrate during the fall and winter can be minimized by waiting to make applications until soils have cooled, and by using products such as nitrification inhibitors. The fact that essentially all the N may remain in the soil as ammonium all winter, coupled with our drier winters, means minimal N is likely to be lost over winter.

However, soils often warm up early in the spring and allow nitrification to get started well before corn planting. Generally, if the wheat is greening up, nitrification has begun. Thus, one of the potential downsides of fall application is that nitrification can begin in late February and March, and essentially be complete before the corn crop takes up much N in late May and June.

Summary

If anhydrous ammonia is to be applied in the fall, there are a number of factors that must be considered, including soil texture, temperature, and soil moisture. Guidelines to consider:

- Do not apply anhydrous ammonia in the fall on sandy soils.
- On silt loam or heavier-textured soils, wait to apply anhydrous ammonia until soil temperatures at the 4-inch depth are below 50 degrees F (records indicate in most years this will be in November).
- Use a nitrification inhibitor such as N-Serve with anhydrous ammonia to help reduce fall nitrification rates.

To check the soil temperature for our area visit K-State Research and Extension Weather Mesonet at: http://mesonet.k-state.edu/agriculture/soiltemp/
In the United States, animal predation accounts for approximately 11% of calf loss. While not as devastating as the U.S. average, Kansas still reports that 4.6% of calf loss is due to predators. Even at nearly 5%, deaths and injuries from predators in general cost Kansas cattle producers $4,000,000 on a yearly basis (Ricketts, 2021). The abundance and wide distribution of coyotes across the country and their ability to injure livestock make them the most common livestock predators that Kansas producers deal with in terms of size and death loss due to predation. Of those 4.6% of predation losses previously mentioned, 84% are chalked up to coyotes, specifically. With coyote population steadily increasing since the fur market crash in 1987, coyotes remain an area for concern in terms of livestock production and calf losses (Ricketts, 2021).

As mentioned, their size gives coyotes a deadly advantage. Coyotes range in size between 18 and 43 pounds depending on their location in the country, however a study conducted in Kansas recorded average weights of males and females at 30.7 lbs and 26.0 lbs, respectively. The oldest age of a wild coyote was recorded at 14.5 years, while a coyote in captivity reached an age of 22 years. This length however is uncommon as mortality rates of coyotes are rather high compared to other animal species with 50% of coyotes dying before they reach their first breeding season. Of that mortality rate, humans are responsible for 40-90% of death with other causes including things such as vehicle collisions and disease varying with location and environment. Considering all of the death loss that coyotes experience although still surprising, 70% of wild coyotes in most population are less than 3 years old (Ricketts, 2021).

Some producers may notice that coyotes are more active during specific times of the year. For example, energetic demands of coyotes are greatest in spring and early summer making them much more focused on hunting during that time. This is due to the presence of pups as coyote breeding season occurs in January or February, when females exhibit a 4-5 day estrus. Interesting enough, the resulting litter size is affected by resource abundance. For example, when resources are limited litter size on average is 3 pups, while when resources are high average litter size is 8 pups. The impact on resource availability is not limited to litter size, however.

Resources also impact the home range size, in addition to the social hierarchy of the coyote group. The social hierarchy includes the coyotes establishing and defending territories to maximize reproductive fitness and to ensure that they have food, water and shelter resources necessary for survival. When resources are limited, home ranges may increase in size. Coyotes belong to either family groups which position themselves near their resources, or transient coyotes which roam more freely causing a variation of home ranges dependent on their social status. To illustrate how many coyotes roam, a study by Kamler and Gipson found that 47% of coyotes were transients in a range in Kansas (Ricketts, 2021). The proportion of transient coyotes makes affecting population numbers more difficult due to the ability of transient coyotes to move in and continue reproduction in the area when coyotes in family groups are killed.

Although discouraging, statistical models show that 70% of the population must be killed for 50 consecutive years to eliminate coyotes in that area. However, if a producer wants to reduce the number of coyotes threatening livestock there are several methods of eliminating them. Shooting when the opportunity arises seems to be the most common method for producers. However, calling and shooting may be more effective during specific periods of time. If this is the method of choice, one should ensure that they are doing so legally following applicable regulations and restrictions. When calling, it is a good practice to find an elevated position, approach from downwind, make limited noise, and call into the wind towards a draw or other type of cover that holds coyotes. Trapping and snaring coyotes is another option for control. Dirt hole sets and flat sets are generally the two trapping setups that are recommended to producers by Drew Ricketts, KSRE Wildlife Management Specialist. Even if the offending coyote is not caught in the trap, the presence of coyote caught in a trap can successfully deter coyotes from the area.

Discouraging statistics that suggest that coyote elimination is extremely difficult may support a co-existence approach. To reduce coyote kills, remove dead livestock and avoid calving near the dead pile. Calve close to areas with high human activity, with lights, dogs, and tractors running often. Coyotes will still travel into those areas, but will be much less confident to hunt. Since open dead pits are far more attractive to predators, it is suggested to compost animals in dead pits as much as possible. Even guardian animals such as dogs, donkeys, and llamas can be implemented to deter coyote hunting, although this is a more common choice for small livestock (Ricketts, 2021).

Due to the range, social hierarchy, abundance, and persistence of coyotes it may be beneficial to view controlling coyotes from a co-existence point of view. However if a producer wants to “take” coyotes, this can be accomplished through shooting, calling and shooting, trapping, and snaring. Measures like calving location, dead pit management, and guardian animals can deter coyotes to kill if prevention is the preferred control method.

For more information on predator control, 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.
Families or Work are groups of people who share close relationships that change over time. One way to think of it as a system with moving parts where each part is dependent on one another in order to function smoothly. When the group works as a system, each person has specific roles and responsibilities that help other parts of the system successfully fulfill their roles within the system.

However, what happens when there is a part of the system that does not successfully fulfill its role? The other parts of the system cannot complete their duties and then the system begins to malfunction. Which in the end causes much stress.

Stress is an interference in the normal functioning for the everyday system. It can manifest in different ways. Negative stressors can be a variety of things; for example, financial troubles, personality conflicts and many more. A positive stressor could be relocating to a new job. Stressful but a good thing.

All people respond to stressors in different ways—some may argue while others ignore one another and shut down, and there are some who have learned how to successfully handle their stress. Learning how to handle stress is an important skill for all to learn.

**Take a second.** Stress, either positive or negative, can take a toll on one’s mental, physical, and emotional state. It is important to first process the stressor or event by yourself to gauge where you are on the situation and allow yourself to embrace your feelings about the stressor.

**Pinpoint where the stress is coming from.** Being able to identify what exactly is causing the disruption in the group can help you to find solutions.

**Identify your support system.** Who will you go to when you need to talk? Who will help you and your group during this time? Identifying people who will be in your support circle will mitigate feelings of being alone during the stressful time and can be a source of comfort.

**Do some damage control.** Check in on the people who the stressor directly affected. Then take time to talk to them about how they are feeling.

**Make sure** you take care of your mental and physical health at all times.

**Come to our Harvest of Holidays Program to learn different techniques to relieve your stress.**

**Sherman Co.** — November 15 at 6:00 p.m. (m.t.) at the Sherman Count Public Library.

**Wallace Co.** — November 16 at 6:00 p.m. (m.t.) at the Sunflower Extension District office.

**Cheyenne Co.** — November 17 at 6:00 p.m. (c.t.) at the CSM Trading Event Room, 214 West Washington Street, St. Francis
Club members, leaders, and parents are the best people to tell others about 4-H and why they should join.

Personal Recruitment Research has shown the best way to get new members, families and volunteers to join is to ask them. Talk to neighbors, relatives and friends to recruit new members. We all like personal invitations! Your 4-H invitation may include: something fun you did in 4-H last year, why you like it, why you think they might like 4-H, and how to get involved. Sometimes, youth and their families don’t know about 4-H. They need your help to learn about the opportunities in the club and county. They may have wrong ideas about 4-H. For example, some people think you have to live on a farm or in the country to belong to 4-H. Others might think you need to be in a certain grade to join.

What Our Friends Who Are Not in 4-H May Want to Know About 4-H
- Open to boys and girls. • Includes ages 5—18 as of December 31 during the current 4-H year.
- Clubs meet one time a month.
- 4-H is a K-State Research and Extension program that is part of K-State.
- Members take projects that fit their interests.
- There are projects that work in town and on the farm.
- Youth can make the decisions in their clubs.

To learn more about Sunflower District 4-H visit: https://www.sunflower.k-state.edu/4-h/

When new members attend your club meetings and activities:
- Be sure to greet everyone and make them feel welcomed by the group.
- Introduce all family members to other 4-H families.
- Explain what you are talking about at your meetings. 4-H is like a foreign language for people who haven't participated before!
- Have new (and newer) 4-H families meet with your club leadership team.
  ◇ Share club expectations and explain club committees and your club calendar.
  ◇ County 4-H Family Guides are available and new families will receive a quarterly newsletter. There is also 4-H information on the District Website on Facebook pages and in the monthly District Newsletter.
  ◇ Ask newer families to share what they wish they had known when they started 4-H and ask if the new families have any questions.
  ◇ Let them know who to call if they have questions.
  ◇ It would be a great idea if your club set up a committee or family to check in with each new family prior to first few club meetings.

It is the responsibility of EVERYONE in the club to welcome new families.
Don’t assume new members and families know all about 4-H.
Asking “Do you have any questions?” can be extremely helpful and effective.

Sources: https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/globalassets/uw-extension/4-h/leader-resources/club-enhancement/promoting-4-h-and-getting-more-members.pdf
Join Now! 4-H

Enrollment is open for the new 4-H year. Deadline to re-enroll is December 1st. Please contact the Extension Office with any questions. 785-332-3171

Are you interested in joining Cloverbuds? This program is for ages 5-7. For more information on the Cloverbud program, contact the Extension Office at 785-332-3171.

The 4-H Achievement Banquet will be held on November 21 at 6:00 pm in Bird City at the Legion Hall. Club responsibilities are-

- Pleasant Hill—Decorate
- Go-Getters—Club in Charge
- Lawn Ridge—Food Table
- Plum Creek—Set Up
- ALL CLUBS—Clean Up

Join us in celebrating a successful 4-H year.

Congratulations to the Cheyenne County Shooting Sports competitors. Cheyenne County had a very good representation. All the hard work paid off!

What are you thankful for?

https://www.facebook.com/sunflowerextensiondistrict cheyennecounty4h
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**October 2021**

**Important Dates**

November 3 ............. Foods
November 7............. Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 7............. Ruleton Eager Beavers
November 8 ............. 4-H Council
November 11 ........... Veterans Day/Extension Closed
November 14 .......... Achievement Awards
November 14 .......... Officers Training
November 20 ........... Cloverbuds
November 20 - 21..... KS Youth Leadership Forum
November 21 .......... Sunflower 4-H Club
November 21 .......... Prairie Dale
November 22 .......... Country Clovers
November 25 - 26..... Thanksgiving/Ext. Office closed
November 30 .......... Sherman County Match Day

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**Sherman County Match Day**

**November 30, 2021**

*Who to donate to:*

- 4-H Council
  - Project Support
  - Afterschool Programming
  - Summer Camping
  - 4-H Promotions
  - North School Butterfly Garden

- Clubs
  - Prairie Dale
  - Ruleton Eager Beavers
  - Sunflower

- Project Clubs
  - Shooting Sports
  - Horse Wranglers

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**Re-Enrollment for Returning 4-H Members**

Are you a continuing Sherman County 4-H member?
Are you planning to show at the NW Kansas District Free Fair in the 4-H Division?
Re-enroll and pay the State $15 fee by December 1 of each year to be eligible to show in the NW Kansas District Free Fair 4-H Division!
Pay by credit card online. Pay by check or cash at the Sherman Co. Extension Office.
Drop/add project deadline remains May 1 unless a project requires an earlier enrollment.

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**Achievement Awards & Officers Training**

The 4-H Achievement Awards is on Sunday, November 14, 2021, at 2:30 PM, at the Sherman Theatre.

4-H Grand Champion Jackets will also be awarded.

Officers Training will follow the Achievement Awards and will also be at the Sherman Theatre (anybody is welcome to stay)

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K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
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**Daylight Savings Time Ends** |          |        |          |
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**4-H Council**  
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**Extension Office Closed November 25-26**
2021-2022 4-H Upcoming Events

October 3-9—National 4-H Week
October 4—4-H Record books due to office
October 9-10— 48 Hrs. 4-H
October 10— 4-H Sunday
October 23-24— Kansas 4-H Dog Conference
November 7—Achievement Program, 12:30 potluck
4-H Council mtg
November 20-21—Kansas Youth Leadership Forum at Rock Springs
November 26-30— National 4-H Congress, Atlanta, Georgia
February – Beef Weigh-In 8:00-10:00 a.m.
February —Citizenship in Action (State)
February —Kansas 4-H Ambassador Training
March - NW Judging in Hays and Super Saturday In Hays
March – County Club Days—4:00-6:00 and 6:00-8:00
March – Regional Club Days
April – National 4-H Congress Chevy Chase, Maryland
April – Small Animal Weigh-In
April – NW Youth Leadership Forum
May —Discovery Days (State Event)
May – Fishing Clinic (Multi-County Event)
June – Rock Springs Camp
June– Spring Horse Show
June – Camperence (State Event)
July– District Horse Show
July 22-30– Fair Clean-up & Wallace County Fair

Dates to Remember

November
7—Achievement Banquet
4-H Council Mtg
20-21—Youth Leadership Forum
25— Thanksgiving– Office Closed
26— Office Closed
26-30– National 4-H Congress
December
23– Christmas Eve Office Closed
24– Christmas Day Office Closed

Achievement Banquet
The Achievement Banquet will be held on November 7th. Parents are asked to bring slideshow pictures into the Extension Office as soon as possible. Don’t bring any more then 10 pictures for each 4-H’er. If you have any questions please call 785-852-4285.

4-H Online Enrollment opened up on October 1st. Please get on to enroll by December 1st or you will not be able to show in the 4H division at the County Fair. If there are any questions please call the Extension Office.

***In the Office***
*State Fair ribbons are in the office and ready for pick up.
# November 2021

**Wallace Co.**

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- KS Youth Leadership Forum Rock Springs—
- National 4-H Congress—
- National 4-H Congress—

**Happy Thanksgiving**