

FHD Extension News

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SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS WEEK IS MARCH 6-10

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By Pat Melgares, K-State Research and Extension news service

Live in Kansas and the Midwest for very long, and it becomes commonplace to expect a wide variety of spring and summer weather. Tornadoes, damaging winds, large hail, flash flooding and lightning often dominate the news headlines in this part of the country. But Chip Redmond says those weather hazards can happen most anytime of year.

"You can't just focus on a couple weeks of the year," said Redmond, manager of the [Kansas Mesonet](#), a network of weather monitoring stations throughout the state. "For example, we see tornadoes most often in the spring and early summer, but we could see them year-round. We've had tornadoes in December before."

The National Weather Service in Topeka has designated [March 6-10 as Severe Weather Preparedness Week in Kansas](#), including a statewide tornado drill on Tuesday, March 7 at 10 a.m. All Kansans are urged to participate in the drill by practicing the plans they have in place for seeking shelter from a tornado.

"You've got to keep that plan fresh," Redmond said. "Anytime there's a wind threat, whether it's a tornado or severe winds, the best thing to do is to get centrally located in your house – typically a bathroom that has four interior walls around it, or underneath the stairwell in a basement. You want as many walls between you and the outside in all directions."

Redmond suggests people keep a weather safety kit that includes such items as non-perishable food, blankets, boots, extra clothes, helmets, weather radio, batteries, a charging device for phones and even a map to track the path of the storm while listening to news reports.

He also recommends that parents practice the plan with children well in advance of severe weather threats; doing so helps to ease children's anxiety in a real emergency. Though parts of Kansas are starved for rain, flash flooding is also a common threat in spring and summer. It's also a tricky threat.

"Honestly, flash flooding kills more people than tornadoes in most years," Redmond said. "That's because people really underestimate the power of water." He said water can quickly rise in areas that people don't expect – such as across a roadway – and the current is often turbulent.

"There's a good meteorologist slogan for when water's on the road: 'Turn Around, Don't Drown,'" Redmond said. "You don't know what kind of turbulence and current that water has underneath, and for that matter, you don't know the state of the road underneath the water. Find another way to your destination."

To stay safe from lightning, the meteorologist's advice is 'When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors.' Lightning strikes the U.S. 25 million times a year, according to the National Weather Service, accounting for an average of 47 deaths.

"Staying safe in severe weather really is having situational awareness all the time," Redmond said. "Whether you're driving down the road or going to bed at night, know the forecast and know what's going on around you all the time. Forecasts aren't perfect; they can change very quickly. So make a habit of checking the weather in the morning, during the day and before you go to bed."

WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

Recommendations from National Weather Service
<https://www.weather.gov/top/swaw>

- **Be Weather-Ready:** Check the forecast regularly to see if you're at risk for tornadoes. Listen to local news or a [NOAA Weather Radio](#) to stay informed about tornado watches and warnings. Check the [Weather-Ready Nation](#) for tips.
- **Sign Up for Notifications:** Know how your community sends warnings. Some communities have outdoor sirens. Others depend on media and smart phones to alert residents of severe storms capable of producing tornadoes.
- **Create a Communications Plan:** Have a family plan that includes an emergency meeting place and related information. If you live in a mobile home or home without a basement, identify a nearby safe building you can get too quickly, such as a church or family member.
- Pick a safe room in your home, such as a basement, storm cellar, or an interior room on the lowest floor with no windows. Check more ideas for your family plan at: <https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>
- **Practice Your Plan:** Conduct a family severe thunderstorm drill regularly so everyone knows what to do if a tornado is approaching. Make sure all members of your family know to go there when tornado warnings are issued. Don't forget pets if time allows.
- **Prepare Your Home:** Consider having your safe room reinforced. You can find plans for reinforcing an interior room to provide better protection on the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) website.
- **Help Your Neighbor:** Encourage your loved ones to prepare for the possibility of tornadoes. Take CPR training so you can help if someone is hurt.

THUNDERSTORMS—Severe thunderstorms are officially defined as storms that are capable of producing hail that is an inch or larger or wind gusts over 58 mph. Hail this size can damage property such as plants, roofs and vehicles. Wind this strong is able to break off large branches, knock over trees or cause structural damage to trees. Some severe thunderstorms can produce hail larger than softballs or winds over 100 mph, so please pay attention to the weather so you know when severe storms are possible. Thunderstorms also produce tornadoes and dangerous lightning; heavy rain can cause flash flooding.

LIGHTNING—Lightning is a giant spark of electricity in the atmosphere or between the atmosphere and the ground. In the initial stages of development, air acts as an insulator between the positive and negative charges in the cloud and between the cloud and the ground; however, when the differences in charges becomes too great, this insulating capacity of the air breaks down and there is a rapid discharge of electricity that we know as lightning. Lightning strikes the United States about 25 million times a year. Although most lightning occurs in the summer, people can be struck at any time of year. Lightning kills [about 20 people](#) in the United States each year, and hundreds more are severely injured.

TORNADO—A tornado is a violently rotating column of air extending from the base of a thunderstorm down to the ground. Tornadoes are capable of completely destroying well-made structures, uprooting trees, and hurling objects through the air like deadly missiles. Tornadoes can occur at any time of day or night and at any time of the year. Although tornadoes are most common in the Central Plains and the southeastern United States, they have been reported in all 50 states.

FLOODING—Flooding is a coast-to-coast threat to some part of the United States and its territories nearly every day of the year. Each year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other thunderstorm related hazard. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that over half of all flood-related drownings occur when a vehicle is driven into hazardous flood water. The next highest percentage of flood-related deaths is due to walking into or near flood waters. People underestimate the force and power of water. Many of the deaths occur in cars swept downstream. Many of these drownings are preventable. Never drive around the barriers blocking a flooded road. The road may have collapsed under that water. A mere 6 inches of fast-moving flood water can knock over an adult. It takes just 12 inches of rushing water to carry away most cars and just 2 feet of rushing water can carry away SUVs and trucks. It is NEVER safe to drive or walk into flood waters.

This website address listed at the top of the page is designed to teach you how to stay safe during storms to minimize your risk of injury and increase your chances of survival. You'll also find links to research, past events other topics of interest as well as downloadable safety handouts about thunderstorms, lightning, and tornadoes.

BUILD A BASIC EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

FEMA recommendations—https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2021-02/ready_checklist.pdf

Recommended Items to Include in a Basic Emergency Supply Kit:

- Water and non-perishable food for several days
- Extra cell phone battery or charger
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio that can receive NOAA Weather Radio tone alerts and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Non-sparking wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Can opener (if kit contains canned food)
- Local maps



Additional Items to Consider Adding to an Emergency Supply Kit:

- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food, water and supplies for your pet
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a portable waterproof container
- Cash and change
- Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or information from www.ready.gov
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Fire Extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies, personal hygiene items and hand sanitizer
- Mess kits, Paper cups, plates and disposable utensils, paper towels
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children



MEDITERRANEAN DIET

Eating healthy continues to be a hot topic. When we think about eating healthy, this can be interpreted in many different ways. The Mediterranean diet is not a new way of eating, but has gained some popularity in recent years. The Mediterranean diet began in the 1950's as researchers study the link between diet and cardiovascular disease across the world. Eating patterns in areas like Greece and Italy were found to have lower rates of cardiovascular disease than in the US. There are a few key concepts related to the Mediterranean Diet.

- 1) Vary Your Protein—eat fish and seafood 2-3 times per week, choose white-meat poultry, choose lean red meat and/or limit red meat, limit processed meats.
- 2) Swap Your Fats—choose olive oil, use olive oil for cooking, dressing, and marinades, consider replacing solid fats such as butter or margarine with olive oil or canola oil.
- 3) Eat More Vegetables—get at least 3 servings per day, choose a variety of colors.
- 4) Eat More Fruit—get at least 2 serving per day, choose a variety of colors, include berries often.
- 5) Snack on Nuts & Seeds—avoid candied, honey-roasted, and heavily salted nuts and seeds.
- 6) Make your Grains Whole—choose options such as oatmeal, quinoa, brown rice, and popcorn.
- 7) Rethink Your Sweets—limit your sugar intake in snacks, desserts, and beverages.

DISTRICT 4-H CLUB DAYS

CHASE COUNTY RESULTS

Show & Share		Reading	
Liam Lauer	Participation	Kinslea Glanville	TB
Harvey Schlup	Participation	Jerit Inlow	ATB
Project Talk		Ellena Bell	Blue
Bella Mushrush	TB 1 SFQ	Addison Hansford	Blue
Enley Lauer	TB 2	Hadlee Litke	Red
Kate Mushrush	ATB 1	Hezekiah Peters	Red
Hadden Giger	ATB 2	Maggie Peters	Blue
Cale Cooper	Blue	Naomi Peters	Blue
Ty Fink	Red	Dance Routine	
Archer Hodges	Red	Maggie & Naomi Peters	TB
Owen Hodges	Red	Gladstone	ATB
Hadlee Litke	Red	Toledo	Blue
Hezekiah Peters	Red	JR Instrumental Solo	
Tanner Swigert	Red	Dominic Barrett	Red
JR Demo/ Illustrated Talk		SR Instrumental Solo	
Vonda Danford	TB 1 SFQ	Maggie Peters	TB
Tate Gibb	TB 2 SFQ	Josepha Inlow	ATB 1
Vincent Hodges	ATB 1	Guthrie Danford	ATB 2
Naomi Peters	ATB 2	Vocal Ensemble	
Olivia Bell	Blue	Brooke & Addie Fink	TB
Colton Cooper	Blue	Chorus	
Heath Giger	Red	Diamond 4-H Club	TB
SR Demo/ Illustrated Talk		JR Gavel Games	
Rebekah Peters	TB 1 SFQ	Diamond 1	TB
Josepha Inlow	TB 2 SFQ	Diamond 2	ATB
Josiah Peters	ATB 1 SFQ	Model meeting	
Bryson Koch	ATB 2	Bazaar 4-H Club	TB
Karlie Gibb	Red		
Jerit Inlow	Blue		
Sadie Mushrush	Blue		
Maggie Peters	Blue		
Public Speaking			
Harrison Giger	TB 1		
Kinslea Glanville	TB 2		
Henry Giger	ATB		
Interview			
Josepha Inlow	TB		
Lydia Filinger	ATB		

MORRIS COUNTY RESULTS

Project Talk		JR Instrumental Solo	
Andrew Schrader	TB 1	Mariette Thibodeaux	TB
Riggin Parker	TB 2	Maya Mulryan	Red
Jameson Laultt	ATB 1 SFQ	Haylee Nielsen	Red
Ronnie Mayer	ATB 2	Daylen Nielsen	Red
Beatty Mayer	Blue	JR Gavel Games	
Mariette Thibodeaux	Blue	Dwight Sunflowers	TB
JR Demo/ Illustrated Talk		Model meeting	
Macey Hensley	TB 1 SFQ	Burdick Hustlers	TB
Joshua Laultt	TB 2 SFQ		
Laramie Mayer	ATB 1		
Cooper Andres	ATB 2		
Warren Longren	Red		
SR Demo/ Illustrated Talk			
Jacob Kasten	TB 1		
Castyn Andres	TB 2		
Public Speaking			
Cassidy Dalquest	TB 1		
Castyn Andres	TB 2		
Interview			
Lakoddah Downes	TB		
Reading			
Lexi Todd	TB		
Macey Hensley	ATB 1		
Andrew Schrader	ATB 2		
Trinadee Fetters	Blue		
Jameson Laultt	Blue		
Joshua Laultt	Blue		
Maya Mulryan	Red		
Dance Routine			
Dwight Sunflowers	Blue		
Skit			
Flint Hills	TB		
Dwight Sunflowers	ATB		
SR Instrumental Solo			
Alex Priest	TB		

REGIONAL CLUB DAYS—will be held Saturday, March 25 at Madison High School. Good luck to 4-H members who will be representing Chase and Morris Counties!

Current KSU Equine Research Programs:

A Probiotic Approach to Preventing Laminitis

Laminitis, or founder, is a devastating condition in the horse. The best veterinary care in the world often cannot save horses from this condition: Barbaro and Secretariat both succumbed to laminitis. Laminitis is unique in that most obvious symptoms are detected in the hoof, but the problem originates in the horse's digestive system. Generally the process begins when there is a starch overload in the horse's hindgut and the microbial population present produces large quantities of lactic acid in response to the starch. The resulting acidosis appears to set off a chain reaction that ends with severe disruption to the hoof. We are working to develop a probiotic approach that would prevent lactic acid build-up in the horse's cecum. In doing this, we hope to develop a preventative measure that would be effective in stopping the laminitis cascade before it even begins.

Fescue and Its Effects on the Equine Hoof

Tall fescue grass is routinely fed to horses. While most horse owners know about the toxicity effects of fescue in pregnant mares, they often do not hesitate to put their riding horses on fescue pasture. In cattle, fescue consumption has been related to a condition known as "fescue foot." We have a project underway that is designed to look at the effect fescue consumption may have on circulation through the equine hoof. Fescue consumption has been linked to vasoconstriction, and with the issues reported in cattle, it seems likely that fescue consumption might also alter blood flow to the horse's hoof. If this is the case, there could be implications for those horses predisposed to navicular syndrome, laminitis, or other lameness conditions related to the health of the hoof itself.

The Glycemic Effect of Various Feeds in the Equine

Like humans, many horses in the U.S. are suffering from obesity and all of its related health issues. There are several conditions in which the horse is best maintained on a diet that does not elicit a large insulin response. Equine Metabolic Syndrome and Polysaccharide Storage Myopathy are two examples. As a result, there is a need to characterize the glycemic and insulinemic response of the equine to various dietary components. We have begun to do this by looking specifically at various feedstuffs containing molasses but that are consumed in very different ways. We are comparing feeds like sweet feed that are consumed entirely in meals to feeds like hardened blocks containing molasses that are consumed in small quantities throughout the day.

Omega-3 Fatty Acids and Equine Physiology

Fat supplementation of horse diets is very common within the industry. Almost all commercially-prepared concentrates now contain added fat. Traditionally, this fat has been provided from a vegetable source that is generally high in essential omega-6 fatty acids and low in essential omega-3 fatty acids. Most horse diets in general are very low in these important omega-3 fatty acids, which are found in high concentrations in marine-based products like fish oil. Recent research with humans and other species has begun to define the role of omega-3 fatty acids in health, immunity and neurological development. Consumers are now starting to see a number of products on the market for both humans and animals that are labelled as being "high" in omega-3 fatty acids. The potential role of omega-3 fatty acids in horse health and nutrition is still a relatively new area of research. At Kansas State in the Department of Animal Sciences, we are currently focusing our attention on the effect of dietary supplementation with marine-based omega-3 fatty acids on equine reproduction and foal growth. The goal of this research is to more accurately determine the effects of feeding diets high in omega-3 fatty acids to mares and foals, as well as the young, growing horse, and to make subsequent recommendations to horse owners in terms of incorporating these essential fatty acids into the diets of their horses.

Management Considerations for March 2023

By Jason Warner, Ph.D., Extension Cow-Calf Specialist

Cow Herd Management

- Start post-calving nutrition programs for spring-calving females.
 - ⇒ Begin lactation rations once first calving cycle is complete.
 - ⇒ Make sure thin ($BCS \leq 4.0$) females are on an increasing plane of nutrition going into breeding.
- Pregnancy check and wean fall-calving cows if not already done.
- Evaluate your mineral program for the coming spring and summer seasons.
 - ⇒ What was your average consumption last year?
 - ⇒ Do you need to make changes this year to achieve targeted consumption?
- Consider magnesium supplementation levels, particularly for lactating cows grazing wheat, rye, or triticale in the spring.
- If synchronizing females for breeding, schedule your protocols now well in advance of the breeding season and mark your calendars.
 - ⇒ Use the estrus synchronization planner available to you.
 - ⇒ Inventory your A.I. supplies and check your semen tanks.
- Evaluate herd bulls for BCS and adjust as needed prior to breeding.
 - ⇒ Bulls need to be in a $BCS \geq 5.0$ prior to the next season of use.
 - ⇒ Schedule breeding soundness examinations with your veterinarian.

Calf Management

- Market your fall-born calves if not already done.
- Schedule your spring calf working activities and visit with your veterinarian to discuss your calf health protocols.
- Monitor growth and pubertal development of replacement heifers.
 - ⇒ Heifers should be having active estrous cycles prior to breeding

General Management

- Make sure you complete your spring calving records!
 - ⇒ Don't forget late-calving females as you focus on other spring projects.
- Rethink your turn-out dates if pastures were stressed from drought last year.
 - ⇒ Plan/adjust your feeding dates accordingly.
- Take inventory of any feed/forage that will be left over and won't be fed until fall.
- Cover piles or close bags if silage is left over and won't be fed until fall.
- Clean up any soiled bedding or unused/wasted feed to reduce the breeding and development of stable flies as the weather warms up.
- Finish pasture management projects started last year.
 - ⇒ Repair or replace fences as needed.
 - ⇒ Burn if conditions allow, cut and pile trees, particularly Cedar trees!
 - ⇒ Clean and repair tanks and equipment as needed so watering sources are working properly when cattle are turned out to pasture.
- If making bull selection decisions:
 - ⇒ Review your herd performance relative to your marketing and genetic goals.
 - ⇒ Study EPDs impacting your marketing and genetic goals and do your homework well before sale day.



UPCOMING BQA TRAININGS AT A LOCATION NEARYOU

Colby: March 28 • 6 p.m. • City Limits Convention Center

El Dorado: March 30 • 6 p.m. • Butler County Community & 4-H Building

Manhattan: April 11 • 6 p.m. • Stanley Stout Center

Hays: April 13 • 6 p.m. • Hilton Garden Inn



Join us for this special Beef Quality Assurance Training to enjoy a meal from Certified Angus Beef. Plus, hear how they're using BQA certificates to share how cattlemen take care of cattle at the ranch to its licensed partners and beef consumers.



Pre-register by contacting Brooke Wines:

Brooke@kla.org • 785-273-5115

Onsite registration is also available.



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 on the local extension offices in the area of the meeting. Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity employer.

Now is the time to detect early season pests

K-State field crop entomologist recommends waiting to treat wheat for insect pests

-By Maddy Rohr, K-State Research and Extension news service



MANHATTAN, Kan. — A wave of warm weather in the middle of February may draw the attention to winter grain mites – a concern to many farmers – but Kansas State University field crop entomologist Jeff Whitworth said they aren't doing any damage right now.

"Most winter grain mites are in the egg stage right now. There are a few active nymphs and adults, but most are in the egg stage," Whitworth said. "If you go out on a warmer night with a flashlight you can see some feeding on the leaves, but if it is colder, they will be down in the soil not really doing any damage."

According to Whitworth, three pests may cause concern early in the season: winter grain mites, army cutworms and Hessian flies. Whitworth said all three are most active in late fall to early winter.

"Once temperatures drop, winter grain mites die off and just their eggs are left during winter, but army cutworms will be feeding anytime the temperatures are over 45-50 degrees Fahrenheit," Whitworth said.

"The hessian fly is dormant right now, but if you have places in your wheat field last fall that looked like they're going backwards or dying with dark blue-gray colored leaves, pull those up and you'll see little mahogany colored, cigar-shaped flaxseed. That's the resting stage of the hessian fly."

When the weather consistently becomes warmer, these three pests mature and may cause damage.

"If the crops are still dormant, pests won't feed on them very much. Even if they do, it's not going to cause any problems. It's once these crops -- mainly wheat -- come out of dormancy and start growing that we start having a problem," Whitworth said.

Lack of soil moisture will add to pest-caused damage once crops break dormancy.

"That damage is going to show even more because those plants are also struggling for moisture," Whitworth said. "It is a good idea to go out and try and figure out where those populations are, but you don't need to do anything about them right now."

Whitworth recommends sampling or monitoring the weak or thin areas to determine if the cause is pest-related and plan your action based upon pest identification. It is best to wait until plants have broken dormancy because pesticides do not work as well below 50 degrees F.

"So even if pests do feed on plants, it's not going to impact the spring growth or the yield because the roots are already set. Don't worry about trying to find a solution until everything breaks dormancy," he said.



Lettuce

By Ward Upham

Though lettuce is most often planted directly from seed in late March to early April, it can be started from transplants. Transplants allow lettuce to mature earlier so that it escapes the excessive heat that can lead to a strong flavor and bitterness.

Seed should be started four to five weeks before transplanting. Because transplants are planted at the same time as direct seeding, now would be a good time to begin. Use a seed starting mix and plant shallow as lettuce requires light for germination. A soil media temperature of 60 to 68 degrees will encourage germination. Watch the media temperature carefully, as seed can enter a thermal dormancy if germination temperatures are excessive. Also, a cooler temperature of 55 to 60 degrees should be used once the plants emerge.

Time to maturity varies depending on the type of lettuce, with leaf lettuce being the quickest, followed by bibb, romaine, and buttercrunch lettuce. Head or crisphead lettuce is the slowest and is least likely to mature before becoming bitter.

Spacing also varies with type. Leaf lettuce plants are spaced 4 to 6 inches apart, buttercrunch, bibb, and romaine are set at 6 to 8 inches and head lettuce should be at least 8 inches apart in the row. Lettuce does not have an extensive root system and requires regular watering if rainfall is lacking.

Fertilize before planting according to soil test. Plants should also be sidedressed when about 1/3 grown. Sidedressing is done with fertilizers that have more nitrogen than phosphorus and potassium. Use 1/3 cup of nitrate of soda (16-0-0) or 1/4 cup of a 27-3-3, 29-5-4 or similar fertilizer per 10 feet of row. The latter fertilizers are lawn fertilizers but will work well for sidedressing as long as they do not contain weed killers or weed preventers.

Pruning Deciduous Shrubs

By Ward Upham

Gardeners are eager to get out and do something in the landscape this time of year. One chore that can be taken care of now is pruning certain shrubs. Often, gardeners approach pruning with trepidation, but it is not as difficult as it may seem. Remember, not all shrubs need to be pruned (i.e. witch hazel), and certain shrubs, which will be identified later, should not be pruned this time of year. Shrubs are pruned to maintain or reduce size, rejuvenate growth, or to remove diseased, dead or damaged branches. Deciduous shrubs are those that lose their leaves each winter. Evergreen shrubs maintain foliage all year and include yews and junipers.

Deciduous shrubs are placed into three groups:

- ◆ Those that flower in the spring on wood produced last year;
- ◆ Those that flower later in the year on current season's growth; and
- ◆ Those that may produce flowers, but those flowers are of little ornamental value.

Shrubs that flower in the spring should not be pruned until immediately after flowering. Though pruning earlier will not harm the health of the plant, the flowering display will be reduced. Examples of these types of plants include forsythia, lilac and mock orange. Shrubs that bloom on current season's growth or that do not produce ornamental flowers are best pruned in late winter to early spring. Examples include Rose-of-Sharon, pyracantha, Bumald spirea and Japanese spirea.

Pruning during the spring allows wounds to heal quickly without threat from insects or disease. There is no need to treat pruning cuts with paints or sealers. In fact, some of these products may slow healing. There are three basic methods used in pruning shrubs: thinning, heading back and rejuvenating. Thinning is used to thin out branches from a shrub that is too dense. It is accomplished by removing most of the inward growing twigs by cutting them back to a larger branch. On multi-stemmed shrubs, the oldest canes may be completely removed.

Heading back is done by removing the end of a branch by cutting it back to a bud and is used for either reducing height or keeping a shrub compact. Branches are not cut back to a uniform height because this results in a "witches-broom" effect.

Rejuvenation is the most severe type of pruning and may be used on multi-stem shrubs that have become too large, with too many old branches to justify saving the younger canes. All stems are cut back to 3- to 5-inch stubs. This is not recommended for all shrubs but does work well for spirea, forsythia, pyracantha, ninebark, Russian almond, little leaf mock orange, shrub roses and flowering quince.

Don't forget that this is a good time to prune your fruit and shade trees! If you have questions about pruning, please reach out to one of our Extension Offices (Council Grove: 620-767-5136 | Cottonwood Falls: (620) 273- 6491). We also have helpful pruning publications available online!



MARCH 22 - 24, 2023



Wednesday, March 22nd - 4H Building



10:00 AM Basics of Farm Transition Planning
1:30 PM Mechanics of Building a Farm Legacy:
Transactional Tools for Farm Transitions
Shannon Ferrell
Oklahoma State University

Thursday, March 23rd
TPEC - 2nd Floor



10:00 AM
The State of Carbon
Credit Programs

Micah Cameron-Harp
Kansas State University



1:30 PM
The U.S. Ag Economy:
How are we looking?

Brian Briggeman
Kansas State University

Friday, March 24th
TPEC - 2nd Floor

10:00 AM
Grain & Livestock Market Outlook,
Sponsored by American AgCredit



Don Close
Terrain Ag



Cody Barilla
Terrain Ag

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Master Gardeners of Butler Co., Ks

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APRIL 23 | Noon to 5pm

Butler Co. Community/4-H Building
206 N. Griffith | El Dorado, KS

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Butler County



Flint Hills District Ag Producer Email List—We want YOU!

Hello Again!

Chelsea and I are still working to create an email list of agricultural producers in Morris and Chase Counties in order to be able to share about events that have a quick turn-around time. Sometimes we receive information about events after our newsletter goes out and having an email list would provide us with a way to quickly get information out to people!

If you're interested in signing up for the email list or know of others who would be interested, please let us know by email or by calling one of the Extension Offices.

-Abby

Abby's email: agettinger@ksu.edu; 620-767-5136

Chelsea's email: chelse1@ksu.edu; (620) 273- 6491

Do you have program ideas? Send them our way!

Not only do we answer questions as they come into the office, but we can also work to coordinate a presentation or workshop that provides a deeper amount of information on a topic. I attended a Rotary Club meeting last year where someone brought up the idea of a pruning workshop— we just finished it up this week and it was a topic that was relevant for a large number of people!

So! Do you have a natural resource-related, horticultural, or agricultural topic that you're interested in that you think others in the community would enjoy learning about, as well? Or, is there a hands-on skill you would like to learn more about? Let us know and we might have an expert in that area who would be able to provide instruction. The internet has been a part of sharing so many good resources, but I think one of the best parts of Extension is being able to have real people who can help you figure out a situation that is more complex than what you read about online or who can assist you in taking what you know about a hands-on skill and help you improve or apply it in real life. So, please feel free to reach out with your ideas!

-Abby

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K-STATE
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