

www.thomas.ksu.edu

Thomas County

K-State Research and Extension News

*Knowledge
for Life*

Emily Bennigsdorf
Ag. & Natural Resources
ebennigsdorf@ksu.edu

Joanna Johnson
Office Professional
joannajohnson@ksu.edu



K-State Research and Extension is an equal
opportunity provider and employer.

www.ksre.ksu.edu

June 2022

Volume: 169

2022 Thomas County Wheat Plot Tour

Thursday, June 9th at 10:00 am CST

WHERE:

Solomon Creek farm, (Mike, Jeanene, & Tanner Brown) Plot 10 miles South of Levant/I-70 Interchange on County Rd 11. Meet at the plot at 10:00 am to go through the varieties with specialists.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Lucas Haag, NW Area Agronomist
Jeanne Falk Jones, NW Multi-County Agronomy Specialist
Mark Wood, Kansas Farm Management Agricultural Economist

THE FAIR IS COMING!

Fair Theme: It's Show Time!

We are just 6 short weeks away from the start of the 2022 Thomas County Fair! 4-H Family packets will be available to pick up at the office on June 6th. We will send out an email to everyone when the fair books are ready to be picked up. Please note: Pre-entries will continue to be online this year due to our subscription with the FairEntry program. If you are interested in being a Jr. Superintendent, please call the office at 785-460-4582, or email us at TH@listserv.ksu.edu.

A copy of the Fair Book will be available on the Thomas County Extension [website](#) if you would like to look at it before Family packets are available.

Agriculture Focus with Emily Bennigsdorf

Garden Insects

Getting into the point in the season where gardens are looking full and fruitful. This may be the time that bugs and insects start to show up more in gardens.

The first way to help your garden is to correctly identify pests, insects, and any possible diseases to see if intervention is necessary.

Chemical control can be used as a last line of defense but organic garden insect control is starting to become more popular. Keeping around the beneficial insects, natural predators, and parasites can help control unwanted bugs.

There is a large diversity of organic garden control available on shelves now but understanding their mode of action can help you find the perfect fit.

We want to make sure to keep our pollinators healthy and well nourished this season. Finding the correct control will help make sure they don't get hurt when trying to get rid of unwanted pests.

Anything that is put outside has some sort of environmental impact. Organic and synthetic both can kill good and bad pests and it is really a personal choice on which will work best for your garden.

Both systems (organic and synthetic) can have a place in good agricultural practices. Always stay informed about these products.

Lady beetles, otherwise known as lady bugs, are great to have around your garden. Most people are able to identify them in their adult stage. But they have three other stages that may be a little more difficult to identify.

Their eggs are light yellow in color and are usually more difficult to find. In their larva stage they usually are mistaken for a spider.

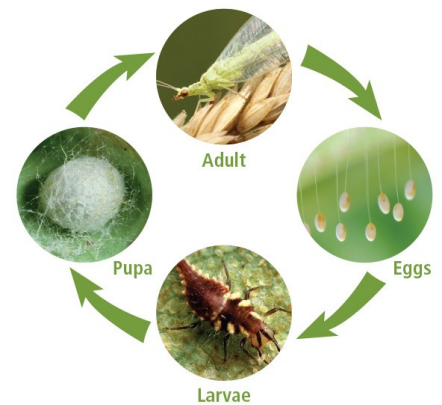
They are black with two orange stripes down their back. They then move into the pupa stage where their color starts to change and they look more similar to what we know them as. These lady beetles are very helpful to have around in gardens. They eat aphid and squash bug eggs.

Another beneficial bug to have around is the Green Lacewing. They eat aphids, mealybugs, scales, white flies, spider mites, and other plant pests.

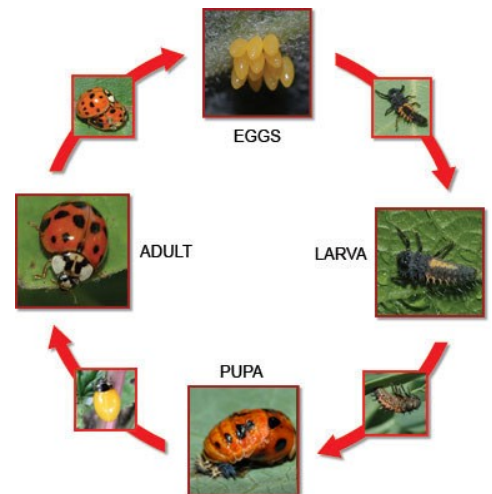
Flower flies are very active aphid eaters in gardens. They are important pollinators and are attracted to mostly sunflowers.



Green Lacewing:



Lady Beetle Stages:



Got Asparagus?



Fresh asparagus is popping up in many gardens to welcome spring! This perennial vegetable is a treat at any meal.

If you have an abundance of asparagus, what is your plan to preserve it? Asparagus can be canned, pickled or frozen. For instructions for all three methods see [Preserving Vegetables MF1181](#).

Store freshly harvested asparagus in the refrigerator to keep it tender and naturally sweet. It is best to eat or preserve it the day it is harvested. Wrap spears in a damp paper cloth, then place in a perforated plastic bag in the refrigerator. An option is to place spears in a tall container of water in the refrigerator.

Harvest asparagus when it is between four and 10 inches long.

Blanching Vegetables

Blanching vegetables is defined as scalding vegetables in boiling water or steam for a short time. It is a critical step in freezing vegetables to protect flavor, color and texture.

Blanching also helps remove dirt, organisms, brightens up the color, and helps preserves some vitamins. It stops the natural enzymes in the vegetables from continuing to change flavor, color and texture. Underblanching can cause the enzymes to become more active and is worse than no blanching at all.

The blanching process is quick and each vegetable has its own blanching method and time.

Learn more about blanching and a list of blanching times for many vegetables from the [National Center for Home Food Preservation](#).



Produce Stickers May Go High Tech!

Those little stickers on fresh produce may soon be replaced with high tech labels that are “printed” directly on the produce. This research is being conducted at the K-State Olathe campus in the Postharvest Physiology and Food Safety lab.

Using laser technology, the QR code is etched or engraved on to the surface of the food. Research is looking at the quality and safety of the produce and if the engraving affects produce freshness or if it causes problems with microbial contamination. They also want to see if the QR code remains readable from the time the produce is engraved to when it is used.

These stickers, called price look-up (PLU) stickers, are used to track inventory through the supply chain. These new QR codes could help trace recalled food faster and solve foodborne illness outbreaks in a timely manner.

The country of France has banned the use of noncompostable stickers on produce. Therefore, they cannot receive exported produce from the United States.

Learn more at <https://www.k-state.edu/seek/spring-2022/printing-qr-code-produce/>



Food Business Conference

Whether you are an aspiring food business owner or a seasoned professional, you’ll find something valuable at the [2022 Food Business Conference!](#)

This free, two-day conference offers topics related to mobile food businesses, manufacturing, restaurants, and agriculture and will connect food entrepreneurs with support organizations, coaches, and information.

A variety of sessions, workshops, a resource fair, and networking opportunities will equip you with the tools to strengthen your business. Whether it’s currently open or still a dream, we have what you need to learn, launch, and level up your food business!



Fair Shoot Results

The shooting sports disciplines of BB Gun, Air Rifle and Air Pistol began practices last fall. Several of our members traveled to various locations around the State of Kansas to participate in matches this spring. At these matches, they worked hard to earn qualifying scores for the State Match in Great Bend. After this match, their season culminated with a local shoot that represents an event similar to one at the Thomas County Fair. The scores and winners are listed below.

Junior BB Gun, ages 8-9	Prone	Standing	Sitting	Kneeling	Total	Place
Hattie Plummer	70	28	65	75	238	Grand Champion
Kemper Eisenbart	62/1	46	47	57	212/1	Reserve Champion
Deegan Wolf	33	43	54	54	184	
Milo Burvee	43	49/2	42	48	182	
Austin Lange	19	24	55	37	135	

Intermediate BB Gun, ages 10-12	Prone	Standing	Sitting	Kneeling	Total	Place
Blaine Wagoner	95/6	78	83	82	338/6	Grand Champion
Koulter Plummer	82	85	84	79	330	Reserve Champion
Nash Ziegelmeier	86	78/1	64	68	296/1	

Senior BB Gun, ages 13-15	Prone	Standing	Sitting	Kneeling	Total	Place
Allison Zimmerman	97/3	88/1	88/1	89	352/5	Grand Champion
Colby Kriss-Howlett	87/1	77	87/1	86	337/2	Reserve Champion
Hannah Hernandez	84	74	88	81	327	
Samuel Hernandez	85	77	90/1	72	324/1	
Kellen Burvee	62	45	57	72	238	

Air Pistol	Total	Place
Allison Zimmerman	332	Grand Champion
Cassandra Zimmerman	302	Reserve Champion

Air Rifle	Prone	Standing	Kneeling	Total	Place
Melissa Zimmerman	185/5	148/1	154	487/6	Grand Champion
Cassandra Zimmerman	179/3	149/2	149	477/5	Reserve Champion
Kellen Burvee	110	86	100	296	



Schedule Change

Don't forget to double-check the schedule of events for Fair this year. Some shows and entry dates have changed from last year.

Fair Changes & Reminders

The Kansas State Fair made some changes to their fair book that will affect our fair as well.

- ◆ One project that was introduced in 2021 is **STEM: Ag Mechanics**. This project is starting with an emphasis on welding and smithing. This project allows youth to explore areas of ag mechanics and metallurgy from repairing or repurposing items to the fabrication of new items.
- ◆ The second new project that began in 2021 is **STEM: Architectural Block Construction**. This project is starting with an emphasis on using architectural blocks ("Legos") to construct dioramas. This project has been added to our Fair Book. Please note: this is NOT the same as a traditional Lego exhibit. Lego kits will still be entered under Visual Arts.
- ◆ **Visual Arts** classes were changed last year so our Fair matches the State Fair. Classes now include: Fine Arts, Clay & Ceramics, Leather & Jewelry, Three-Dimensional, and General Crafts. New this year: pop tabs are no longer an acceptable arts hanger.
- ◆ Reminder: Patchwork and quilted items will be judged at the Buymanship and Clothing Construction judging event. This is held Tuesday before Fair week (July 19th). They are listed under Fiber Arts in the Fair Book due to State Fair classes, but should be judged with other Sewing Construction pieces.

Open Class Entries

Open class entry will continue to be on Tuesday of Fair week (July 26th). Exhibits will need paper entry cards to be completed and attached to them for entry. Cards can be found at the Extension Office. 4-H members may drop off completed Open Class entries during the 4-H entry time on Monday, July 25th if they would like to do so.

Food Safety at Fair

If you will be entering a food project at Fair, you may want to consider reading about food safety. K-State has a few publications available regarding Food Safety of Frostings & Fillings- [MF3544](#) and Food Safety for Food Preservation Exhibits- [4H712](#).

Poultry Testing

Poultry testing will be at 9:30am on Wednesday, July 13th at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. This is for both 4-H and Open Class poultry exhibits. Please bring all poultry you will be bringing to fair so we can test for pullorum-typhoid and so we can give them a numbered leg band.

Livestock Entry Limits

Each exhibitor may only show 2 market animals per species and 2 breeding animals per species. Only 1 market animal per species may be sold in the livestock sale, per exhibitor.

YQCA Training Required for all Livestock Participants

The Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) certification training will be required for 4-H members ages 7-18 to be able to show and sell their livestock this year for fair. **Species that require certification include beef, swine, sheep, goats, poultry and rabbits.** This training focuses on food safety, animal well-being, and life skill development. To complete this training, go to the YQCA website (yqcaprogram.org). Click "Login & Register" on the top-right. If you have not registered before, you'll need to create a new account. Parents need to create accounts for their children. You'll need to retrieve your email to validate registration and complete the parental consent. This will then allow you to add children. Go to the Home page and select a course. Members who participate in the Web-Based Training will see their certificate after completion of their session. Members can then view and print their certificates to turn in to the Extension Office by July 7th.

BAND App

The office and clubs will now be using the BAND app to communicate important information. Please select the main group and your club to register.

Thomas County 4-H:

<https://band.us/n/a8a164M4D0x9n>

Abilene Hustlers: <https://band.us/n/a8af6cM4DdyeT>

Brewster Prairie Gem:

<https://band.us/n/aaac63M5D7Z6d>

Gem 4-H: <https://band.us/n/aca96dM8D2Zb8>

Solomon Valley: <https://band.us/n/a7a662McD5Z7s>

14 and Older 4-H Member BAND:

<https://band.us/n/aca464x9c5H23>



Horse Project

- ◆ **Practices**— 4-H practices are being held at the CCC farm. The day and time has changed to Wednesdays at 5:30pm. Riders will need to provide a negative Coggins test (within the last year) and will have to wear helmets per CCC policy.
- ◆ **Horse Level Testing**— 4-H Horse Project members who would like to compete at the District or State level, must complete the Level 1 workbook, do some community service work, attend an educational seminar, take & pass the Level 1 written exam, as well as take & pass the Level 1 riding exam. More information can be found on the [4-H Horse page](#).
- ◆ **NW District Horse Show**- The Northwest District Horse show will be held on July 7th in Norton. Entry deadline: June 17th. Registration can be found on the Showing Master [website](#).
- ◆ **4-H Equine Webinar Series**- This series will help 4-H members, volunteers and parents gain the skills and knowledge about horses and the horse industry in Kansas. Topics will include basic 4-H Horse project knowledge, horse health and college and career readiness. Webinars will be held live the third Monday of each month at 7pm and will be recorded for later viewing. For more info. and to register, visit the Webinar Series [website](#).

Wheat Expo

The 2022 Kansas 4-H Wheat Expo will be held Thursday, August 4th in St. John, Kansas. The wheat expo is a fun, educational, and hands-on program showcasing all things wheat. Eight contests will be open to youth members. Lunch and refreshments are sponsored and tours will be given to the Stafford County Flour Mill and Osborne Fruits & Vegetable. 4-H members enrolled in Foods Nutrition, Photography and Field Crops projects are encouraged to attend. For more information, visit the 4-H [website](#).

4-H Post-Fair Celebration Lunch

The Thomas County 4-H Council and Extension Office would like to invite all 4-H members and their families to a Post-Fair Celebration Lunch on Saturday, July 30th at 11:00am. Join us for some food and county 4-H comradery as we wrap up another successful Fair week!

Project Meetings/Events

Dog Project— Practices are being held on Tuesdays from 7-9pm at the 4-H Bldg. For more information, please contact Angie Harris at 785-443-2797. Also, the State 4-H Dog Show Immunization Record is available at the Extension Office. This form is required for all dog shows, including the State Fair.

Shotgun project— The coaches are gearing up for the upcoming shotgun season. The safety meeting for the 2022 season will be held on Sunday, June 5th at 6:00pm at the Colby Trap Club.

Rabbit project- 4-H members with rabbits can join other members to learn more about care taking, handling and showing their rabbit at Fair. Meetings will be held June 15th and July 13th at 6:30pm at the 4-H Building.

4-H Animal Science Webinar Series- This series is designed to give Kansas 4-H members an opportunity to learn more about the livestock industry, career opportunities and good animal husbandry practices. The webinars will be held the 4th Monday of the month at 7pm. They will also be recorded for those wishing to view them at a later date.

Entomology Project

Beetles, bugs, dragonflies and more! It's time to get registered for the 30th Insect Spectacular. The State Entomology Workshop will be held Friday and Saturday, June 17th and 18th, 2022. We will be hosted by Arnold's Greenhouse on Friday morning, located at 1430 Hwy 58 near LeRoy, Kansas. Then we will travel to the Chanute High School as the center for other activities. The event is open to all youth and adult volunteers interested in 4-H entomology! **One parent/adult guardian from each family must register and attend with children.**

The \$70 registration fee includes Friday supper, lunch and snack Saturday, bottled water, class materials, t-shirt and handouts. Younger siblings under 4-H age, spouses, etc. that may be coming along, but not participating in the classes will need to pay a fee of \$25.00. This will pay for the meal and snack Saturday, but does not include a shirt. For more event details and to register, please visit the Insect Spectacular [website](#).



2022 Thomas County Fair

It's Show Time!

Monday, June 20

Registration opens on FairEntry

Friday, July 1

4-H Dog Project Pre-Entries due on FairEntry

Thursday, July 7

4-H & FFA Pre-Entries due on FairEntry
(except Horticulture)

YQCA Certificates due to Extension Office

Wednesday, July 13

9:30 am- Poultry Testing- 4-H & Open Class poultry

Saturday, July 16 (**)

9 am- 4-H/Open Class Dog Agility & Rally
(registration/vet check at 8:30am)
@ Colby Ball Diamonds

Sunday, July 17 (**)

1 pm- 4-H Dog Show @ Heartland Christian School
3:30 pm- Open Class Dog Show

Tuesday, July 19

9 am- 4-H Buymanship Judging
@ Celebration Community Church
Following Buymanship- 4-H Clothing Construction
Modeling & Judging
7:30 pm- 4-H Public Fashion Review

Thursday, July 21

9 am- 4-H Visual Arts Judging
1:30 pm- Demonstrations, Illustrated Talks
& Public Speaking
5:30 pm- Superintendent meeting
6 pm- Fair Set-up

Friday, July 22

4-H Horticulture entries due on FairEntry

Saturday, July 23 (**)

9 am- 4-H Horse show

Sunday, July 24

11 am-5 pm- 4-H Booth Construction

Monday, July 25 (**)

7:30 am-11 am- 4-H/FFA & Open Class Livestock
Weigh-in/Vet Check
7:30 am-11 am- 4-H Exhibits accepted (non-livestock)

11:30 am- Judging of non-livestock 4-H exhibits starts
**1 pm- All Consignment forms and payment due to
Fair Board**

3 pm- 4-H/FFA & Open Class Cat, Rabbit, Hand Pet,
& Poultry show

7:30 pm- KPRA Rodeo

Tuesday, July 26 (**)

7:30 am-1:00 pm- Open Class exhibits accepted
(non-livestock)

8 am- 4-H/FFA & Open Class Swine Show

9 am-Noon- Tallest Corn Plant Contest- Sponsored by
Nutrien Ag Solutions

2 pm- Judging of non-livestock Open Class exhibits starts

5:30 pm- PARADE- Starts at Fike Park, down Franklin
to Fairgrounds

7:30 pm- KPRA Rodeo

Wednesday, July 27 (**)

8:30 am- 4-H/FFA & Open Class Sheep and Goat Shows

11 am- Antique Tractor show

4 pm- Registration for Pedal Tractor Pull

5 pm- Pedal Tractor Pull, Sponsored by Thomas County
Farm Bureau Association

5:30 pm- Free BBQ Dinner

Thursday, July 28

7:30 am-10 am- Thomas County Community Foundation
Breakfast

8:30 am- 4-H/FFA & Open Class Beef Show

5:30 pm- 4-H/FFA Livestock Sale
Buyer's appreciation BBQ after the sale

Friday, July 29

9 am- 4-H/FFA Round Robin

1-2 pm- Release of Livestock going home

2-6 pm- Release of Livestock for resale & lockers

6-8 pm- Release of Livestock going home

7:30 pm- Truck and Tractor Pull

Saturday, July 30

8 am-9:30 am- Release of all non-livestock entries
4-H and Open Class

8 am- 4-H Fair clean-up & Release of Livestock

11 am- 4-H Family Celebration Lunch

7:30 pm- Demo Derby

() = Change in schedule from previous year**

June 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 Shotgun Safety Meeting @ 6pm	6 AH—Meeting @ 4-H Bldg. 6:30pm	7 Dog Practice	8 Horse Practice Fair Family Packets Available for Pick-up	9 Fairboard Mtg. @ 8pm	10	11
12	13 BPG—Meeting @ Henry Hall 7:30pm GEM—Meeting @ Gem Comm. Bldg. 7pm SV— Meeting @ McCarty Dairy 6pm	14 Dog Practice 	15 Scott Lake Camp Horse Practice Rabbit Project Meeting @ 4-H Bldg. 6:30pm	16 Scott Lake Camp	17 Insect Spectacular Reg. due for NWKS District Horse Show 	18 Insect Spectacular
19 	20 Equine Webinar Series @ 7pm Registration opens on FairEntry	21 Dog Practice 	22 Horse Practice	23	24	25
26	27 4-H Council Mtg.  Animal Science Webinar Series @ 7pm	28 Dog Practice	29 Horse Practice	30		
					SS = Shooting Sports AH = Abilene Hustlers	BPG = Brewster Prairie Gem Gem = Gem 4-H CC = Colby Comets SV = Solomon Valley



K-STATE

Research and Extension

Thomas County Office Complex

350 South Range Ave. Suite 16

Colby, Kansas 67701

Bookmark our website for quick reference to educational and informational resources as well as contact information for all of your questions:

<http://www.thomas.k-state.edu>

Check us out on Facebook & Twitter:

K-State Research and Extension Thomas County 4-H



K-State Research and Extension and Thomas County Extension are committed to making their services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision or hearing disability, or a dietary restriction please contact Emily Bennigsdorf at 785-460-4582.