Do you know an individual that wants to start a career in Extension or would be a great candidate to work in our office? The Summer Internship Position is open for the 2022 season! Go to [https://www.thomas.k-state.edu/](https://www.thomas.k-state.edu/) to find the application and more information.

Check out the Agriculture Focus page to learn about preparing your lawn for the upcoming season.

It’s time for Walk Kansas! Get your teams ready to go, check out the Family and Consumer Science page for more information.

Our 4-H Pages have some important updates and information on them in this issue. We have a new required training for showing and selling livestock. We also have a new app that the office and clubs will be using to communicate on for 4-H.
Lack of a skilled agriculture workforce is a top inhibitor of growth and expansion for many Kansas agriculture operations. An agriculture workforce needs assessment survey will help the Kansas Department of Agriculture work toward solutions for the Kansas ag industry.

We are seeking Kansas farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses, manufacturers and producers of agricultural products to help KDA identify the number and types of jobs, and specific skills required for those jobs. We need your input — please complete this survey by April 8.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

Please scan the QR code to get started or you can go directly to the survey at tinyurl.com/workforce2022

Paper survey copies are available by contacting Russell Plaschka, agribusiness development director, at 785-564-7466 or Russell.Plaschka@ks.gov.

A complete survey report will be made available later this year. Thank you for your investment in Kansas agriculture.
Upcoming Events

**March**

4th—Cattlemen’s Day – Manhattan
For more information, [click here](#)!

5th—Design & Grow Gardening Workshop – 9am-noon online via Zoom or in-person at the Sedgwick Co. Extension Center, Wichita
For more info. and to register, [click here](#)!

7th—Crop Talk Webinar Series: Climate Update and Kansas Mesonet – Noon-1pm
[Click here to register](#)!

9th—Living Well Wednesday Webinar Series: Preparing Your Finances for Times of Disaster – 12:15-1pm
[Click here to register](#)!

14th—Crop Talk Webinar Series: 2022 Grain Market Outlook & Strategies – Noon-1pm
[Click here to register](#)!

14-15—FSMA Produce Safety Grower Training – 1-5pm online
[Click here to register](#)!

16th—Morel Mushroom Identification Training – Noon-1pm online
[Click here to register](#)!

17th—Morel Mushroom Identification Training – 6-7pm online
[Click here to register](#)!

23rd—Living Well Wednesday Webinar Series: Consumers Beware: Avoiding Identity Theft & Scams – 12:15-1pm
[Click here to register](#)!

27th—Walk Kansas begins
[Click here to register](#)!

**April**

6th—K-State Garden Hour Webinar Series: Pollinator Plants for Continuous Food Sources – Noon-1pm
[Click here to register](#)!

26th—YQCA Training for 4-H members – 6:30pm at the Thomas County Office Complex
Call the Extension Office to register!

**May**

4th—K-State Garden Hour Webinar Series: New and Improved Annual Flower Varieties – Noon-1pm
[Click here to register](#)!

9th—Introduction to Produce Safety & Post-Harvest Handling – 3-5pm online
[Click here to register](#)!

22nd—YQCA Training for 4-H members – 2pm at the Thomas County Office Complex
Call the Extension Office to register!

30th—Memorial Day: Extension Office Closed

For more upcoming events visit our [website](#) or call the office at 785-460-4582!
Lawn Preparation

These last few days have been nice and warm compared to last week’s temperatures. Kansas State University horticulture expert Ward Upham is reminding community members that cool-season grasses will need some attention at the beginning of March.

Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue are the most common cool-season grasses in Kansas. Through the end of the year, Upham said the following calendar will give homeowners a good plan for maintaining these varieties.

In March try to spot treat broadleaf weeds, if necessary. Make sure to treat on days that are 50 degrees Fahrenheit or warmer. The spot treating will be less effective if it rains in the 24 hours after the initial application.

Apply crabgrass preventer in April when redbud trees are in full bloom. The preventer needs to be watered in before it will start to work. One-quarter inch of water should be enough for most products.

When May gets here make sure to fertilize with slow-release fertilizer if you water your lawn, or if you normally receive enough rainfall that your turf doesn’t go drought-dormant during the summer. If there are broadleaf weeds, spot treat with a spray, or use a fertilizer that includes weed killer. The fertilizer needs to be watered in; the weed killer’s effectiveness will be reduced if you get rain within 24 hours after application. Also, if you have grubs that are obnoxious, apply a product containing imidacloprid or chlorantraniliprole. Irrigate with ¼ inch of water if it doesn’t rain within 24 hours of treatment.

Getting into the heat of the middle of summer (June through mid-July) apply a second round of crabgrass preventer by June 15, unless you have used Dimension (dithiopyr) or Barricade (prodiamine) for the April application. These two products normally provide season-long control with a single application. Remember to water in the product after applying.

If you see grub damage in late July through August, apply a grub killer that contain Dylox. Imidacloprid and chlorantraniliprole are effective against young grubs but may not be effective on late instar grubs. The grub killer containing Dylox must be watered in within 24 hours.

In September make sure to fertilize the lawn around Labor Day. This is the most important fertilization of the year. Water in the fertilizer if rainfall doesn’t occur within 24 hours.

To finish off the season in November, fertilize again. This application is taken up by the roots but is not used until the following spring. Water in the fertilizer. Spray for broadleaf weeds even if they are small. Broadleaf weeds are much easier to control in the fall than in the spring. Try to spray on a day that is at least 50 degrees F. Use label rates for all products.
Family and Consumer Science News

Walk Kansas 2022
March 27–May 21
Team packets will be available for pickup soon at the Thomas County Extension Office. We are located at 350 S. Range Ave., Suite 16 Colby, KS in the Thomas County Office Complex.
For information call (785) 460-4582
NEW:
Track your miles with a cell phone app!
Collect online badges.
This year’s colors are heather clay and heather teal.

National Nutrition Month
The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics supports the annual focus of National Nutrition Month®. The goal is to educate consumers about making informed food choices along with improving physical activity.

For the March 2022 campaign, the theme is “Celebrate a World of Flavors.” Learn to incorporate foods and flavors from other cultures around the world each week.

There are tools to help spread the message of choosing nutritious foods and boosting a variety of flavors. This includes social media posts and many tip sheets, activities, and more. See the National Nutrition Month® website for details.

Add Some Green Each Day!
Spring is coming! So add some green color to your meals to add nutrition and to enjoy the fresh green color. Here are some ideas!
• Sliced green apples dipped in yogurt or peanut butter.
• Crunchy celery and cucumbers with savory hummus.
• Try Zoats! Zucchini in oatmeal for breakfast.
• Broccoli and cheese is always a classic side dish.
• Fresh spinach in scrambled eggs or a veggie omelet is an easy way to add green and vitamin A.
Source: Celebrate Spring! University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension

The Science of Charcuterie Meats
Cured meat products are relishing in the popularity of charcuterie boards served at events and parties. There are hundreds of cured meats that chefs are inspired to use with cheese, crackers, nuts, and fruits for a flavor explosion.

The Spanish or Italian inspired dry cured meats are a mix of art and science. They use salt, meat chemistry, temperature and environment to create a variety of flavors. The water activity is key to create a shelf stable meat that does not require heat treatment. The water activity, which is the amount of water available for microorganisms to grow within the product, is affected by the moisture content, salt content, and environmental temperature. Some dried sausages have starter cultures added to decrease the pH, or acid content, and add flavor. Dry-cured ham, country ham, and prosciutto are popular meat choices for a tasty charcuterie board.

Learn more in this February 2022 Food Technology article.
**County Club Day**

County Club Day will be held on March 11th at the Extension Office & 4-H Building. Activities include demonstrations, project talks, dancing, music and dramatics, reading, etc. In order to participate, contact the Extension Office by Friday, March 4th.

**4-H Scholarship**

The Thomas County 4-H Council Scholarship is open to Thomas County high school seniors enrolled in 4-H. Applications are available at the Extension Office and must be turned in by March 15th.

**Horse Papers**

Horse Identification papers are due to the Extension Office on May 1st. The form must be front and back only, not two separate pages and must have a standard-sized photo attached with all markings visible.

**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.

**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 8-18 to be able to show and sell their livestock this year for fair. 7 year-olds are encouraged to attend, but will not become certified. Species that require certification include beef, hogs, sheep, goats, poultry and rabbits. This training focuses on food safety, animal well-being, and life skill development. The office will be hosting two in-person dates for members to receive their certificate. If they cannot attend either in-person date they are able to complete the training online. Both dates will be held in the Thomas County Office Complex Board Room. The first training will be Tuesday, April 26th at 6:30pm and the second will be Sunday, May 22nd at 2:00pm. The training will be $3/participant in-person or $12 online. All certificates of completion are due to the office by July 7th. For questions and to register, please call the Extension Office at 785-460-4582.

**Spring Weigh-In**

Small animal weigh-in will be held Thursday, May 5th from 4-7pm at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. Ear tags are $3 each and we will be collecting the $5 advertising fee for each animal that will be sold in the Fair livestock auction. Weather date (if necessary) will be May 12th.
**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

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**Junior Producer Days**

Junior producer days are held to provide educational material and hands-on experiences for youth, parents, leaders, and extension agents. Junior Beef Producer Day will be held Saturday, March 5th. Junior Sheep Producer Day will be held Saturday, March 19th. For more information, click here.

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**Spring Shows**

Many counties are starting to think about their annual spring shows. Check with the Extension Office periodically to learn about upcoming Livestock, Horse and Dog shows.

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**Dog Club Meetings**

Pawsome Paws, the Thomas County 4-H Dog Club, has begun their spring practices. Meetings will be held on Tuesdays at 7pm at the 4-H Building. For more information, please contact Angie Harris at 785-443-2797.

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**Photography Events**

Shutterbug events are photography workshops put on across the state by the Kansas State 4-H Photography 4-H Action Team.

- April 23rd at 9am at Botanica Gardens in Wichita, KS with $9 entry fee per person
- May 7th at 8:30am at Lee Richardson Zoo in Garden City with $5 registration fee for first 5 family members

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**Entomology Project**

The dates for the 2022 Insect Spectacular have been set for June 17th and 18th. Stay tuned for more information. You can also check out the recordings for all three webinar sessions in 2021 as well as the recordings from the 2020 Insect Spectacular. These are available on the Kansas 4-H website along with other entomology resources.

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**Insect Art Contest**

The Kansas State Pesticide Safety and IPM program is hosting an insect-themed art contest for Kansas 4-H members and art students. Visit their website for complete rules and an entry form. This year the artwork needs to fit into the contest theme of “The Benefits of Insects.” The goal is to explore why insects benefit us as a society and why they are important, and create an art piece that captures that information. Selected artwork will be used to promote why insects are important and to create other educational items. Artists that have art selected will receive a certificate and a prize to recognize their achievement. Winners will be selected from four age categories from kindergarten to high school.
Scott Lake Camp
An introductory camp is being planned for young campers ages 7-9. This event will not be our usual camping trip at Camp Lakeside, but an event planned and run by local Extension Agents instead. Each county is allowed 10 campers and 2 counselors (14+ years old). Registration is $80 and we will be keeping a sign-up sheet at the office starting March 11th.

Rock Springs Ranch 4-H Camp
Camp enrollment is open now. However, several changes have occurred. In the past, Thomas County has attended camp with the Great Northwest Camp Group. Due to recent changes at Rock Springs Ranch, that group is no longer together. In 2022, Rock Springs is offering flexible camp session opportunities. 4-H members can attend any session during the summer, not just a specific one. They are also offering Open Enrollment, allowing non-4-H members to attend. For more information on session dates, pricing rates and new leadership opportunities, please visit the Rock Springs Ranch website.

Discovery Days
Discovery Days offers in-depth training through educational sessions from content and youth development experts. Members will learn new ideas, techniques, and skills they can use personally and in their 4-H clubs and communities. It will be held June 1-3 on the K-State Campus. Registration is coming soon.

Volunteers
The enrollment date for adult volunteers is the same as that for 4-H members, October 1st. This year, new and returning volunteers need to complete the Volunteer Application/Renewal on 4-H Online. If you have questions, call Joanna at (785) 460-4582 or email joannajohnson@ksu.edu.

Shooting Sports
- Volunteers Needed -
Do you or someone you know have a love and knowledge of firearms, shooting sports and youth? If so, boy do we have a place for you!

We are looking for volunteers to assist our current 4-H shooting sports coaches, especially in the area of BB gun and air pistol/air rifle.

All coaching positions require certification. Certification involves a 3-day training March 25-27 at Rock Springs 4-H Ranch.

To be a viable program, 4-H shooting sports requires certified coaches and a certified coordinator. No coaches, no coordinator, no program. Have coordinator but no coaches = no program. Have coaches but no coordinator = no program. If you know anyone who would be interested in helping with this program, please contact the Thomas County Extension office.

Club Attendance
For the 2021-2022 year, 4-H members wishing to participate in the livestock auction are required to attend 6 club meetings between the months of August 2021 and July 2022. Members must attend meetings for the club they are enrolled in on 4-H Online. Business must be conducted at the meeting in order for the meeting to qualify for attendance.

Club members and leaders can check their attendance record by going to the Thomas County Extension website. Click on “4-H Youth Development”, followed by “Record Keeping.”
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>PP—Practice @ 4-H Bldg. 7pm</td>
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<td>SS—Practice @ 4-H Bldg. 3pm</td>
<td>Crop Talk</td>
<td>Living Well Wednesday</td>
<td>Morel Mushroom ID Training</td>
<td>SS—Practice @ 4-H Bldg. 6pm</td>
<td>County Club Day</td>
<td>Scott Lake Camp registration opens</td>
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<td>SS—Practice @ 4-H Bldg. 3pm</td>
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<td>FSMA Produce Safety Grower Training</td>
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<td>Junior Sheep Producer Day</td>
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<td>PP—Practice @ 4-H Bldg. 7pm</td>
<td>Living Well Wednesday</td>
<td>SS—Practice @ 4-H Bldg. 6pm</td>
<td>Regional Club Day</td>
<td>Shooting Sports Instructor Training</td>
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<td>Walk Kansas begins</td>
<td>4-H Council Mtg.</td>
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**Notes:**
- AH = Abilene Hustlers
- SS = Shooting Sports
- BPG = Brewster Prairie Gem
- Gem = Gem 4-H
- SV = Solomon Valley
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.