Congratulations!

Congratulations to our 4-H Youth Development Agent, Laurel Despain and her husband Logan on their new baby girl. We look forward to having her back in February!

4-H Fundraiser—Gambino’s Pizzas

Sales for our annual fundraiser started in December and will run through January 20th. Payment is due at the time of sale and all orders/payments are due to the Extension Office by January 23rd. Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 sellers. Pizza-making day will be Saturday, February 4th. Pizzas will be made at 9:00am in the 4-H Building.

Upcoming Programs

Check out page 2 of this newsletter and make sure to watch our Facebook page to learn about various upcoming programs. There are several Agriculture and Family and Consumer Science programs scheduled for the next few months. Keep an eye out for registration deadlines and program locations. If you need more information about anything listed in the newsletter, please call the office.
**January**

- **12th—Kansas Corn School**— 8:30am-1pm in Oakley, KS
  [Click here to register!](#)

- **17th & 18th—Cover Your Acres**— 8am-5pm In-person in Oberlin
  [Click here to register!](#)

- **18th, 25th & February 1st & 8th—KSRE Land Leasing Strategy Series**— 5:30-8:30pm In-person in Colby
  For more information, [Click here!](#)

- **18th—K-State Calving School**— 6pm to 9pm in Mankato, KS
  Fore more information, [click here!](#)

- **23rd—Grain Marketing Workshop: Corn**— 9:30am-2:30pm in Belleville, KS
  For more information, [Click here!](#)

- **23rd-25th—No-Till on the Plains Conference**— Wichita
  For more information, [Click here!](#)

- **24th—Soil Fertility Management**— 9:30am-noon in Lincoln, KS
  3-5:30pm in Hays
  Registration requested by January 18th.
  For more information, [Click here!](#)

- **25th—Soil Fertility Management**— 9:30am-noon in Colby
  3-5:30pm in Norton
  Registration requested by January 18th.
  For more information, [Click here!](#)

- **27th—Tri-State Cow/Calf Symposium**— 9:30am-2pm CST in Bird City
  [Click here to register!](#)

**February**

- **1st—K-State Garden Hour Webinar Series: Intro to Vegetative Plant Propagation**— Noon-1pm
  [Click here to register!](#)

- **2nd—Kansas Corn School (virtual)**— 6pm via Zoom
  [Click here to register!](#)

- **3rd—Kansas Local Meat Marketing Workshop**— Wichita, KS
  For more information, [Click here!](#)

- **7th—KSU Swine Profitability Conference**— Manhattan, KS
  For more information, [Click here!](#)

- **7th-8th—High Plains No-Till Conference**— Burlington, CO
  For more information, [Click here!](#)

- **8th—Grain Marketing Workshop: Corn**— 12:30-5pm in Atwood, KS
  For more information, [Click here!](#)

- **15th—Grain Marketing Workshop: Corn**— 9:30am-2:30pm MT in Tribune, KS
  For more information, [Click here!](#)

- **15th—NW Area Weed Control Meeting**— 9am-noon MT in Sharon Springs
  4:30-7:30pm CT in Atwood
  Registration requested by Feb. 10th.
  For more information, [Click here!](#)

- **16th-17th—Women Managing the Farm**— Manhattan, KS
  For more information, [Click here!](#)

- **24th—Kansas Local Meat Marketing Workshop**— Olathe, KS
  For more information, [Click here!](#)

For more upcoming events visit our [webpage!](#)
Recognizing Hoof Issues in Cattle

With cattle out to pasture or up near the house it is still just as important to check on your animals to make sure everyone is doing okay.

K-State veterinarians Bob Larson and Brad White as well as their colleague Matt Miesner, DVM, clinical professor and head of livestock services for the College of Veterinary Medicine went deeper into this topic on Cattle Chat in December.

"As veterinarians we see a lot of cases with feet. It is hard for cattle producers to treat that on the ranch because of the labor and facilities needed to treat the problem," Larson said.

Miesner said at the K-State veterinary clinic it is common to evaluate cases of foot rot and toe abscesses.

"Basic foot rot is an infection between the toes that will cause a symmetrical swelling of the foot, whereas a toe abscess may not show any swelling, or if it does swell it will be on one side or the other," Miesner said.

To treat foot rot, Miesner said antibiotics are given and it typically clears up. However, that is not always the case with abscesses.

"With abscesses, there will be a sudden onset of severe lameness that may get better with antibiotics, but it wasn’t the antibiotics that cleared it. Rather, it was the pressure release from the draining of the abscess under the hoof," Miesner said. He added that unless treated with a thorough hoof cleaning, it may not be healed.

If it doesn’t get better with the first round of treatment, Larson advised cattle producers to have the hoof evaluated by their veterinarian where the cattle can be lifted onto a turn table to take a closer look at the hoof.

Another less common foot ailment that appears in cattle is corkscrew claw, according to the veterinarians. This condition causes the animal’s toe to turn in such a way that the outer hoof wall can come in direct contact with the ground because the toes turn inward. White said the toe looks like a corkscrew; hence, the name.

The veterinarians debated about the heritability of this ailment.

"There is no hard, objective data about the heritability, but once an animal expresses the condition, it will be chronic for that individual," Miesner said.

Larson added: "If there is a genetic component, it isn’t a strong one or we would have found that out by now through research."

For cattle producers who have cattle with this condition, the choice is to cull the animal or manage the condition. Miesner said some his clients choose to manage it through regular hoof trimming of the affected animal.

No matter the ailment, Larson said, "Oftentimes one hoof problem can lead to other problems with the feet and legs, so it is important to consult with your veterinarian about the best way to manage it."
Farmers’ Market/Direct-to-Consumer Virtual Workshop

Join these virtual workshops to learn more about selling at farmers’ markets or directly to consumers, food safety, sales tax, beneficial programs and more. The sessions will be held on February 6-10, from noon to 1pm each day. For more information about topics for each Lunch and Learn session and to register, visit the From the Land of Kansas website.

K-State Research and Extension Seeks Input from Kansas Citizens

Officials with a statewide network that has provided unbiased, research-based information on issues important to Kansans for 108 years are reaching out to learn more about how the organization can best serve residents of the state.

K-State Research and Extension has released a public survey to ask current and prospective users about their information needs. Gregg Hadley, director for extension, said the brief survey will inform the organization’s efforts to provide education and information in every Kansas county.

“The services we provide are designed to improve Kansans’ lives and communities through education and engagement,” Hadley said. “The results of this survey will help our dedicated extension specialists, agents and researchers provide information and assistance that best meet the needs of our K-State Research and Extension users.”

K-State Research and Extension has offices in every Kansas county, including extension agents and others who provide information and programs specific to local needs.

Any Kansas resident over age 18 is eligible to take the survey in English (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ST2ZLM5) or Spanish (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SRH9W59). New Boston Creative Group LLC of Manhattan is conducting the survey.

Questions regarding the survey can be directed to Jerry Grasso, director of communications solutions for K-State Research and Extension, at 785-532-5806 or jerrygrasso@ksu.edu.

FSMA Produce Safety Grower Training

The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Training will be held remotely. It will take place February 7 and 8 from 5-9pm each day. In order to receive a certificate of training, you will have to attend the entire training on both days and be engaged in the training. This course will meet the requirement if you are a covered farm under the FSMA Produce Safety Rule. Registration will close February 3 at 4pm. For questions and to register, click here.

Living Well Wednesday Announces 2023 Programs

The Living Well Wednesday team is pleased to announce upcoming webinars in 2023.

January is Kansas Radon Action Month. Join Brian Hanson with Kansas Radon Program on January 11, to learn about this dangerous gas.

January 25 will feature a staff attorney from Kansas Legal Services to talk about important legal documents.

Future webinars include topics such as: hypertension, mental health, stretching your food dollar and positive parenting.


All webinars will be recorded and links/resources will be posted on the Living Well Wednesday website.

86
Radon
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KNOW YOUR RISKS

ONLINE WEBINAR WEDNESDAY, JAN 11TH
12:15-1:00 PM
(Central Standard Time)
January is Kansas Radon Action Month. Learn about the dangers of radon exposure and how to test your home.

REGISTER ONLINE AT
or by scanning the QR Code

LIVING WELL WEDNESDAY
**Beef Weigh-In**

Beef weigh-in will be held February 18th from 9:00am to 11:30am at the CCC Farm. Weather date will be February 25th if necessary. Please bring cash or check to purchase your tags. Tags are $3 each, and each market steer/heifer is required to have an ear tag at the county fair and state fair. Breeding animals are not required to have tags at our fair. If you plan to take an animal to the Kansas State Fair, please let us know so we can get an EID tag for you. Our county fair tags are not accepted at the State Fair.

**Scholarship**

The Kansas 4-H Foundation partners with Kansas 4-H to offer over 50 different scholarships to help fund higher education for 4-H youth who are high school seniors or older. For a copy of the application and a list of available scholarships, please visit the Kansas 4-H Youth Development website. All applications, additional documentation and reference letters must be submitted online no later than March 1.

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.

**Citizenship in Action**

Citizenship in Action is for Kansas youth to learn how the state legislative process works and how their voice and participation in decision-making can make a difference in their communities. Delegates will tour the Capitol, get tips on how to meet and talk with their legislators, and discuss how youth can have a greater impact in their communities.

This event will be held February 19-20 in Topeka, KS. It is open to all youth 13-18 years old as of January 1, 2023. Registration is due February 1st on the 4-H website.

**4-H Ambassador & 4-H Communication Training**

4-H Ambassador Training will be held February 24-25 at Rock Springs 4-H Ranch. There will be Communication Training opportunities offered for teens who are not part of a local 4-H Ambassador Program. The Communication Training will be a separate but still connected program the same weekend.

It is open to all youth 13-18 years old as of January 1, 2023. Registration is due February 1st on the 4-H website.

**County Club Day**

County Club Day will be held on March 10th at the Extension Office & 4-H Building. Now is the time to start thinking about how you might like to participate. Activities include demonstrations, project talks, dancing, music and dramatics, reading, etc. More information involving registration will be given in future newsletters, so stay tuned!

Also, plan to add Regional Club Day to your calendar. It will be held March 24th at Brewster School.

**Junior Producer Days**

The junior producer day events are one-day family educational programs to learn about the selection and management of swine and/or meat goat livestock projects, as well as a variety of aspects related to the animal science industry. Each day is dedicated to one specie. There will also be an instructor-led YQCA certification class at the end of the day for each program.

Junior Swine Producer Day is scheduled for March 11, 2023 with a registration deadline of February 15. Junior Meat Goat Producer Day is scheduled for March 18, 2023 with a registration deadline of February 22.

Online registration for either day can be found here, or we have flyers available in the Extension Office.
**Club Attendance**

New for the 2022-2023 year, 4-H members wishing to participate in the livestock auction are required to attend 5 club meetings between the months of August 2022 and July 2023 and complete the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) training each year. 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 their club’s page on the BAND App.

**Insect Spectacular**

The Kansas 4-H Insect Spectacular, a two-day statewide entomology workshop, will be held June 16-17, 2023 in Manhattan, Kansas. Classes will include basic pinning, basic and advanced identification, insect photography, and much more. Registration and full information will be available later this spring.

**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 7-9 on the K-State Campus. Registration is coming soon.

**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 2023, 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.

**Project Goals**

With reenrollment complete, youth have selected their projects and now it is time to set their 2023 goals.

- **Action:** What are you going to do?
- **Result:** What are you going to accomplish?
- **Timeline:** When are you going to complete the action?

A well-written goal combines all three of the above points! Project goals should be set by the end of January. The Kansas 4-H Program has a guide for Setting Project Goals for free online.

**Project Leaders**

With a new 4-H year comes the need for project leaders. 4-H programs cannot thrive without dedicated leaders! Project leaders work closely with 4-H members, leaders, and parents within the local club or at the county level on a specific project. If you or anyone you know might be interested in becoming a project leader, please direct them to the Extension Office. We have a great library of resources to assist them and there are also trainings available.

**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.

**Band APP**

This is a friendly reminder for 4-H members, leaders, and parents to download and stay up to date with the BAND app. BAND is a mobile application used to facilitate group communication. You can find announcements, reminders, calendars, photos, files, and more on the application. There are groups for each club, 4-H Council and Thomas County 4-H. You can join the county group at this link. If you want to join a group or need help downloading/navigating the app, please contact the Extension Office.
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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.