Kansas State University President Visit

Join us on Wednesday, May 10th for different breakout discussions focusing on how K-State Research and Extension can benefit Thomas County. President Richard Linton will be joining us to discuss possible options to benefit our local community. An email will be sent out regarding sessions and times at a later date.

Fair Theme

It’s time to start gearing up for Fair! Get your ideas ready for your club booths, parade floats and more. This year’s theme is:

"CARNIVAL LIGHTS & COUNTRY NIGHTS"

In This Issue:

Page 2:
- Potential Causes for Yellow Wheat

Page 3:
- From Freezing to Canning: The Role of Temperature in Preserving Food
- Power Out? Prepping, storing food can be tricky

Pages 4-6: 4-H Tidbits
- State Fair Information and Rule Changes
- Discovery Days, Insect Spectacular & Educational Webinar Series information
Potential Causes for Yellow Wheat

While low levels of nitrogen or sulfur in the soil often get the blame for yellow wheat this time of year, Kansas State University Research and Extension soil fertility specialist, Dorivar Ruiz Diaz and Kansas State University plant pathologist, Kelsey Andersen Onofre say other factors may be contributing to yellowing in the 2023 crop.

“One thing that’s been interesting this year – and with the dry conditions we’ve had in Kansas – is that such factors as low (soil) pH levels begin to show up,” said Ruiz Diaz.

Similar situations related to aluminum toxicity, which happens when pH levels are low enough for aluminum to become soluble in the soil, basically create toxicity to the root system. So, we end up with very short, affected roots. When combined with the dry conditions leads to symptoms that may be similar to nutrient deficiencies.

Ruiz Diaz said the conditions also may be confused with phosphorus deficiency and the crop will seem to be drought-affected. “This happens because the plant’s access to water and nutrients is affected by low pH levels (in the soil),” he said.

Kelsey Andersen Onofre said yellow wheat can also be a result of disease affecting the plant. Diseases found in Kansas wheat often include soilborne mosaic virus, spindle streak mosaic virus, barley yellow dwarf virus, leaf rust, stripe rust and wheat streak mosaic virus.

“From a nutrient management standpoint, one thing that I emphasize is in-season monitoring of nutrient levels. A tissue test combined with a soil test is a good way to find out the limiting factors. We may be able to do something about it in-season, but in most cases, the information is going to be relevant for the next season.”

Andersen Onofre said virus testing through the K-State plant disease diagnostic lab can also help producers with a crop insurance adjustment.

“For future years,” she adds, “it’s good to think now about variety selection. If you had some fields where you’ve had history (of disease)... it’s important to be mindful of variety resistance for those viruses.”
From Freezing to Canning: The Role of Temperature in Preserving Food

North Dakota State University Extension offers a webinar series entitled Field to Fork. This series offers education about growing, preparing, preserving and selling vegetables and fruits. Presenters for these webinars are from several universities in the North Central region.

A couple webinars of interest to home food preservation include:

Safely Using a Steam Canner to Preserve the Bounty of Harvest— Dr. Barb Ingham, University of Wisconsin

From Freezing to Canning: The Role of Temperature in Preserving Food— Karen Blakeslee, M.S., Kansas State University

See the Field to Fork website for the archives of all webinars and sign up for remaining webinars.

Power out? Prepping, storing food can be tricky

Kansas State University food scientist Karen Blakeslee says preparing and storing food during a power outage can be “tricky.”

“Without a steady power source (such as a generator), food can be temperature-abused, which increases the risk for foodborne illness,” said Blakeslee, who also is coordinator of K-State’s Rapid Response Center for Food Science.

Foodborne bacteria grows most rapidly between 40 degrees and 140 degrees Fahrenheit, Blakeslee said – doubling in number in as little as 20 minutes. “This temperature range is often called the ‘Temperature Danger Zone,’” she said.

When power fails, “refrigerated and frozen food warms or thaws and can allow potential bacteria to grow and multiply,” Blakeslee said.

“Without power, the options are limited to cook food indoors,” she said. “A fireplace can be used with wood or gas to grill food, or you can wrap food in foil in the fireplace.” But with warmer weather, you don’t want to heat up your house. Outdoor grills or camping stoves are a great solution to prepare a hot meal outside.

However, if using a fireplace, she cautions: “Do not use charcoal in the fireplace because it can emit carbon monoxide. Be sure the fireplace flue is open during use. Otherwise, use foods you don’t have to cook or keep cold. Only prepare enough food for one meal so that you don’t have leftovers.”

Meat products must be cooked to the proper internal temperature to assure safety by using a food thermometer. The minimum temperature recommendations include:

- 145 F for steaks, chops and roasts.
- 160 F for ground meat.
- 165 F for all poultry.

Blakeslee urges consumers to consider stocking up on bottled water, non-perishable foods and disposable utensils for an emergency. Some examples of foods to include are peanut butter, canned meats, whole grain chips or crackers, canned fruit and dried fruit. “And don’t forget pet food for your family’s pets,” she said.

“For canned foods, the pop top cans are easy to open,” Blakeslee said. “Otherwise, be sure to have a (non-electric) can opener available. These foods can be portable in case you need to relocate during an emergency. Single serve items – such as fruit cups and pudding – are easy foods to store for an emergency.”

Once canned goods are opened, they must be used, especially canned meats, fruits and vegetables. “Without refrigeration, the leftovers can not be stored for later use,” Blakeslee said.

She also reminds consumers of one of the most basic food safety steps: Wash your hands.

“If running water is not available, disposable wipes or hand sanitizers can be used. But if your hands are dirty, these are not as effective. Pack some extra bottles of water and soap in your emergency kit.”

For more information on safe food handling, see At-Home Safe Food Handling: It’s in Your Hands.
Project Enrollment

May 1st is the last day to add or drop projects on 4-H Online. Please log-in to update which projects you will or will not be participating in this year at Fair.

Shotgun Project

The Shotgun Project is getting ready to begin their season. Members must attend one of the two safety meetings in May. Stay tuned for specific dates!

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.

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 deadline: May 15th, click here!

Spring Shows are Coming!

The Extension Office continues to receive information about livestock spring shows. To see the flyers for upcoming shows around our area, please check the Thomas County 4-H BAND group. We will be uploading new flyers every Friday in the afternoon.

♦ CCC Classic- Spring Livestock Show

May 13th on the Fairgrounds. Register here!

State Livestock Nominations


Kansas 4-H State Fair Rule Change

For food safety purposes, any entries with frostings and fillings must calculate the amount of sugar in the frosting/filling recipe only. Calculation must be attached to entry, or the placing will be lowered one ribbon when judged. Frosting and fillings need to contain more than 65% sugar for safety. Examples on how to calculate this percentage are included in the publication titled “Food Safety of Frostings and Fillings”. This new rule has been added to the 2023 4-H Kansas State Fair book, and will be enforced at the 2023 Kansas State Fair in the 4-H Foods Division.

Insect Spectacular

The Kansas 4-H Insect Spectacular, a two-day state-wide 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. Deadline: May 26th, click here to register!
Archery Project Donation

Congratulations to the Thomas County 4-H Archery Project for being selected to receive a donation from the Midwest Energy Community Fund. This donation will be extremely useful in purchasing supplies to enhance the Archery Project. Thank you to Midwest Energy for your generous donation and support!

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. 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. The last training will be held on Sunday, June 4th at 2:00pm in the Thomas County Office Complex Board Room. The training will be $3/participant in-person or $12 online. All certificates of completion are due to the office by July 6th. For questions and to register, please call the Extension Office at 785-460-4582.

YQCA Instructions

♦ 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
♦ Find the age of the child you want to enroll. Then select “Add to Cart” under either the Web-Based Training or the Instructor-Led Training
♦ If you are attending one of the in-person trainings, you’ll want to choose the Instructor-Led Training. Select the State, then look for the 2 Thomas County trainings. (They’re not in any particular order.) Once you have chosen your training session, you can enter your credit card information to pay for the course.
♦ Once enrolled in a training session, youth will need to complete the required “Pre-Test”.
♦ After members have completed the Instructor-Led Training and the “Pre-Test”, Laurel will approve them on the YQCA website. 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.

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.
**State Fair Horse Show & Level Tests**

In years past, 4-H members needed to complete Horse Levels Testing in order to compete at the District and State levels. There will no longer be District Shows or a Levels testing requirement to compete at the State level. To be eligible, you must exhibit a properly identified horse at a horse show in a class group and be qualified to exhibit in any class in that group. 4-H members must also complete the Horse Safety Webinar and pass the quiz. They are available on the Kansas 4-H Equine Webinar page. For more information, visit the 4-H Horse website or call the Extension Office.

**Kansas State 4-H Horse Judging Contest**

The 4-H Horse Judging Contest provides youth an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of equine-related subject matter in a competitive setting. Contest awards are available to all Kansas 4-H members age 9-18. Two days prior to the contest, the KSU Horse Judging Team will be hosting a Horse Judging Educational Camp for youth. For more information, click here.

**KS Equine Webinar Series**

This series gives 4-H members, volunteers, and parents skill and knowledge about horses and the industry in KS. Webinars will be hosted live the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Central Standard Time. For more information and registration click here.

**Animal Science Webinar Series**

The Animal Science Webinar 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. Webinars will be shared monthly, the third Monday of the month. To view previous recordings, visit the 4-H website.

**2023 Fair Livestock Weights**

Please be aware of the weights, as some have changed from 2022. Livestock weights for the 2023 Thomas County Fair are as follows:

- Beef - 1000-1800
- Sheep - 100-160
- Swine - 225-350
- Goats - 50-125

**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.

**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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ah—Meeting @ 4-H Bldg. 7pm</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>8 BPG—Meeting @ Henry Hall 7pm</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>10 President Linton Thomas County Visit</td>
<td>11 Fairboard Mtg. @ 8pm</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>15 Discovery Days reg. deadline</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td>17 KFMA Summary Update @ City Limits 6:00pm</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22 4-H Council Mtg.</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26 Insect Spectacular reg. deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>29 Memorial Day Office Closed</td>
<td>30 Babysitting Clinic</td>
<td>31 Babysitting Clinic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- PP = Pawsome Paws
- SS = Shooting Sports
- AH = Abilene Hustlers
- 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 is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means of communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, and American Sign Language) may be requested by contacting the event contact two weeks prior to the start of the event. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information, will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request.