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# Thomas County

K-State Research and Extension News

*Knowledge  
for Life*

Laurel Despain

4-H & Youth Development

[ldespain@ksu.edu](mailto:ldespain@ksu.edu)

Joanna Johnson

Office Professional

[joannajohnson@ksu.edu](mailto:joannajohnson@ksu.edu)

April 2024

Volume: 189

## Paid Summer Internship Opportunity

The Thomas County Extension Office is accepting applications for a summer intern! The work will consist of preparing and helping at all summer events and activities. Normal work hours will be from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Applicants must be 18 years old, with a high school diploma or GED equivalent. This internship runs from May 28 through August 9. Please submit an application and resume by April 12th. You can bring documents to the office or you can email it to Laurel at [ldespain@ksu.edu](mailto:ldespain@ksu.edu). To complete the application, [CLICK HERE](#) or pick one up at the office! Thomas County Extension is an equal opportunity employer.

## Small Animal Weigh-In

**Saturday, April 27th, 2024**

The 4-H small animal weigh-in will be held at the Thomas County Fairgrounds on Saturday, April 27th from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The weather back-up date will be on Thursday, May 2nd. If you want to show your goats, sheep, swine or bucket calves, please remember they must be weighed in at this time. Fair Board will cover the advertising fee for this year for the County Fair Livestock Advertisement in the newspaper. Ear tags will still be \$3.00 each. We ask that you bring cash or check that day to pay for tags. Please note: our tags are NOT acceptable at the Kansas State Fair. If you have an animal you would like to nominate for the State Fair, please let the Extension Office know so we can get the correct EID tag for your animal.

## Club Day Results

Check out page 7 for the results from County Club Day. Great job to all of our 4-H county participants!

## National Volunteer Week: April 21-27

Be sure to recognize and appreciate those that keep our 4-H program running! Club & project leaders, Shooting Sports Coaches & Coordinators, Superintendents, & volunteers, we couldn't do it without you.



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KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION AND COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

# Upcoming Events

## April

**3rd--K-State Garden Hour:** Companion Plants in Your Garden

[Register here!](#)

**3rd--Field to Fork webinar:** Being Creative & Safe with Fruit & Vegetable Preparation and Storage

[Register here!](#)

**5th--First Friday e-Call: Grow Hays:** Housing and Micro-Factory Innovations

[Register here!](#)

**10th--Field to Fork webinar:** Play it Safe! Safe Changes to Tested Canning Recipes

[Register here!](#)

**17th--Field to Fork webinar:** The Role of Bees in my Fruit and Vegetable Gardens

[Register here!](#)

**20th--Safe Tractor & Machinery Operation Training-** in Beloit

[Register here!](#)

**24th--Field to Fork webinar:** Making Nature at Home in Your Landscape

[Register here!](#)

**27th--Safe Tractor & Machinery Operation Training-** in Washington, KS

[Register here!](#)

## May

**1st--K-State Garden Hour:** Understanding Water Sources for Your Garden

[Register here!](#)

**3rd--First Friday e-Call:** State Housing Resources

[Register here!](#)

**4th--Safe Tractor & Machinery Operation Training-** in Great Bend

[Register here!](#)

**7th & 8th--FSMA Produce Safety Grower Training-** online

[Register here!](#)

**14th & 16th--Grant Writing Workshop-** online

[Register here!](#)

**23rd--Safe Tractor & Machinery Operation Training-** in Salina

[Register here!](#)

**23rd--Kansas Wheat Rx Seminar & Field Day-** in Phillipsburg

[Register here!](#)

**25th--Walk Kansas ends**

**27th--Memorial Day:** Extension Office Closed

## June

**5th--K-State Garden Hour:** Growing Cut Flowers for the Home & Farmers Market

[Register here!](#)

**7th--First Friday e-Call:** Is Your Industrial Site Ready for Development?

[Register here!](#)

## Ten rules for Planting Trees this Spring



If you're planning to plant a tree in your yard this spring, there are some steps you can take to make sure your new landscape has its best chance of success. Kansas State University horticulture expert Cynthia Domenghini shares the following 10 rules for planting trees:

### **1. Select the right tree for the site.**

To avoid serious problems, choose trees that are adapted to your location. Consider whether the tree produces

nuisance fruit or if there are disease-resistant varieties available.

### **2. Keep the tree well watered and in a shady location until planting.**

When moving the tree, lift it by the root ball or pot and not by the trunk.

### **3. Before planting, remove all wires, labels, cords or anything else tied to the plant.**

If left on, they may eventually girdle the branch to which they are attached.

### **4. Dig a proper hole.**

Make the hole deep enough so that the tree sits slightly above soil level. Plant the tree on solid ground, not fill dirt.

### **5. Remove all containers from the root ball.**

Cut away plastic and peat pots; roll burlap and wire baskets back into the hole, cutting as much of the excess away as possible.

### **6. Backfill the hole with the same soil that was removed.**

Amendments such as peat moss likely do more harm than good. Make sure the soil that goes back is loosened - no clods or clumps.

### **7. Don't cut back the branches of a tree after planting except those that are rubbing or damaged.**

The leaf buds release a hormone that encourages root growth. If the tree is cut back, the reduced number of leaf buds results in less hormone released and therefore fewer roots being formed.

### **8. Water the tree thoroughly.**

Then, water once a week for the first season if there is insufficient rainfall.

### **9. Mulch around the tree.**

Mulch should be 2-4 inches deep and cover an area 2 to 3 times the diameter of the root ball.

### **10. Stake only when necessary.**

Trees will establish more quickly and grow faster if they are not staked. However, larger trees or those in windy locations may need to be staked the first year. Movement is necessary for the trunk to become strong. Staking should be designed to limit movement of the root ball rather than immobilize the trunk.

The full news release can be read [here](#), read on for the full explanation of each rule.

## Wildflowers Bring Bursts of Color

Wildflowers offer variety and color to a home landscape. In addition to eye appeal, they can survive in soils containing a wide range of chemistry pH and with varying numbers of sunny days, adding variety to garden areas.

To establish a wildflower area, Domenghini recommends using a regional seed blend from Sharp Brothers, Stock Seed or Wildseed Farms. "It is better to choose a blend of grasses and wildflowers rather than a single species," Domenghini said.

Control perennial weeds by using a product containing glyphosate.

- Before planting, adjust pH and fertilize according to results of a soil test.
- Eradicate weeds. This can be done through cultivation, occultation or chemical methods, if necessary.
- The seedbed should be firm so that the boot heel sinks in no more than ½ inch. The goal is good seed/soil contact.
- Mix seed with damp sand (4:1 sand/seed) for more uniform coverage with a drop seeder or whirlybird spreader.
- Rake seed in about ¼ inch deep. It is best if the seedbed is firmed up by using a roller or driving over the area with a riding lawn mower. Don't mulch.

Keep seed moist while the seed is germinating (3-4 times per week, if possible). Slowly back off watering as plants develop. To read the entirety of the article, check out the K-State's Department of Horticulture and Natural Resources [newsletter](#).



## Emergency Recovery

With spring comes awareness of severe weather – plus the need to plan ahead – and this year is no exception, said Jan Steen, community vitality specialist with K-State Research and Extension.

“We have insurance on our crops, vehicles and homes should disaster strike, but how are we protecting our important data? Digital photos and videos, documents, and spreadsheets can be gone in a blink of an eye in a tornado or flood – and fire or theft at any time of year,” said Steen, a co-coordinator of the Kansas community empowerment program and social media specialist.

Steen provided tips to prepare for a disaster, whether it's a flooded basement in your own home or a community ravaged by fire:

- **Take photos or videos of your property and valuables.** This visual inventory can help with the insurance claim process and will make identifying items to replace easier. Be sure to back those photos or videos up and to update them when you purchase new items.
- **Have an emergency plan.** Know where to go in case of severe weather or fire.
- **Have an emergency kit** you can grab on your way to a storm shelter or as you exit for a safer place in case of fire or flood.
- **Print paper copies of your most important documents.** Business and household spreadsheets, insurance policies, bank account details, passports and drivers' licenses. Put copies in your emergency kit or store off-site in a safe deposit box or with a family member. Add phone numbers of family and work contacts that aren't memorized.
- **Consider using a cloud storage service** (Google Drive, OneDrive, Drop Box, etc.) and back up your files regularly. In the event your computer is damaged or stolen you'll have access to the files you need from another computer, tablet, or phone.
- **Perform regular backups to physical**



**removable storage** (thumb drives, secure digital or SD cards). These can be easily placed in your emergency kit or safe deposit box along with your paper copies.

- **Have an extra phone charging cable and plug for your emergency kit.** The power may be out where you are, but if you need to shelter elsewhere, you have a way to charge your phone for important calls or for filing insurance claims.

**For charging, also consider a portable power pack.** These are about the size of a smartphone and allow you to charge a device anywhere from once to multiple times, depending on the model and brand. Be sure to keep the battery pack itself charged for when you need it most. Some portable NOAA weather radios have hand cranks to generate power and a USB port to charge your phone, which may be useful for long-term power outages.

## Food Preservation Publications

For home food preservation, it is essential to process food safely and follow updated preservation recipes and methods says Kansas State University food scientist Karen Blakeslee.

“When these recipes and methods are followed, you can make safely preserved food for later use,” Blakeslee said.

K-States Rapid Response Center recently updated its [food preservation publications](#) to include the most up-to-date recipes and methods.

The following publications along with five other food preservation resources have been updated.

- Preserving Strawberries
- Preserving Beans
- Preserving Cherries
- Preserving Vegetables
- Preserving Peaches
- Preserving Sweet Corn
- Preserving Cucumbers
- Preserving Tomatoes
- Preserving Peppers
- Preserving Apples





## Small Animal Weigh-In

Small animal weigh-in will be held **April 27th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm** at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. Make-up day if necessary will be **May 2nd from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm**. Tags are \$3 each. Please bring cash or check to purchase your tags. Please have your livestock ready and if you will be out of town please make arrangements beforehand.

We need volunteers to help unload, load, and move the animals during weigh-in. Please contact the office if you are able to help!

## Camp Lakeside—Save the Date!

Camp Lakeside will be held on June 10th-11th this year. We have 10 camper spots (ages 7-10) available. **Please register [here](#)**, we already have our counselor positions filled for this year.

Registration is due by May 1. Get wild at Camp Lakeside!

## 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, in their 4-H clubs, and communities. It will be held June 5-7

on the K-State Campus. You can learn more about the event and objectives and you'll find the registration [here](#).

## 4-H Camp 2024

Ready, set, register! 2024 4-H camp sessions at [Rock Springs Ranch](#) are now available for registration. This includes half week, full week, Leaders in Training (LIT), and Counselors in Training (CIT) sessions. A full list of session dates and costs for Summer Camp 2024 and additional details can be found [here](#).

## YQCA Training

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

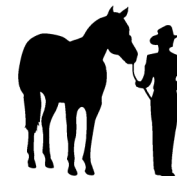
two in-person dates for members to receive their certificate. If they cannot attend either in-person date they are able to complete the training online. In-person training locations are to be determined. The first training will be Thursday, April 25th at 6:30pm and the second will be Sunday, June 2nd 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 5th. For questions and to register, please call the Extension Office.

## 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

In years past, 4-H members needed to complete Horse Level 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. For more information, visit the 4-H Horse [website](#) or call the Extension Office.



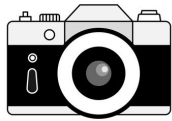
## Insect Spectacular

The Kansas 4-H Insect Spectacular, a two-day state-wide entomology workshop, will be held June 21-22, 2024 in Hays, Kansas. Registration and full information will be coming soon, you'll find the updated information [here](#) when its ready.

## Insect Art Contest

The Pesticide Safety and IPM program is hosting an insect-themed art contest for Kansas 4-Hers and art students across the state. The theme this year is "Incognito: Insects in Disguise". The program encourages youth and adults to get creative and create an entry before the April 15, 2024 deadline. Visit their [website](#) for contest rules and entry forms.





## 4-H Shutterbug at the Zoo

The State Photography Committee will be holding a photography workshop in Garden City, Saturday, May 4 at Lee Richardson Zoo. Doors open at 8:30, workshops begin at 9:00 and will conclude at 12:00. Committee members will be available to teach all aspects of photo composition, how to work with kaleidoscopes, pan blurs, creating a story and more! Please have members bring a smartphone or a camera. There will also be cameras available to check out during the workshop, members are asked to bring their own SD card so they can take their photos with them when the workshop is over. There is no charge for the workshop, register [here](#).

## Geology Field Trip

A geology field trip is scheduled for June 14-16 in Wakeeney. A variety of workshops and activities are planned along with a variety of stops. Project members are encouraged to participate in judging and quiz bowl. A catered supper will be provided Saturday evening for \$15/person and a variety of geology publications will be available to purchase. The registration deadline is May 24. You can visit [here](#) for more information. Indoor camping is available at the Trego Community High School for those accompanied by a parent/guardian and other lodgings can be found in Wakeeney. Register online [here](#).

## Dog Club Meetings



Pawsome Paws, the Thomas County 4-H Dog Club, will begin their spring practices on March 12th. Meetings will be held on Tuesdays at 7pm at the 4-H Building. Kids will need to bring a copy of vaccine records as all dogs are required to have a current Distemper/Parvo (DHLP), Kennel Cough (Bordetella), and Rabies vaccine before the dog can come to practice. Angie will keep a copy of the vaccine record and the 4-H member will keep the original. Please note, there have been a few changes in Agility which will be covered at practice. For more information, please contact Angie Harris at 785-443-2797.

## Goats Across Kansas Series

Our goal is to increase the knowledge of Kansas youth participating in the goat project and help them to become more knowledgeable about the goat industry. Join us while we meet

with a nutrition expert, goat show judge and notable goat exhibiting alumni as they share their tips for success in the ring and before! As always, participants will be given many opportunities to ask questions of our speakers. The second session is titled, "Feeding & Showmanship" and will be held April 7th at 2:00 pm (it will be recorded for those who register). Register [here](#) by April 4.

If you are interested in the swine, beef and/or sheep project(s) as well and missed out on those series, visit [here](#) to view sessions covering selection, feeding and showmanship, health/diseases and daily care, fair preparation, breeding and industry careers.

## 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](#).

## Youth Ag Ambassadors

The ambassador program is a premier leadership opportunity for youth ages 13 to 18 who are passionate about agriculture and are willing to complete a one or two-year term. *Participation/membership in 4-H is not required.*

The program focuses on:

- Connecting youth with their local agricultural industries
- Exploring the richness and diversity of Kansas opportunities
- Developing ag advocacy skills and fostering educational mindsets
- Increasing access to career and post-secondary experiences within the agriscience world

The Northwest Kansas 4-H Agricultural Ambassadors complete training to develop leadership and teamwork skills that are used in promoting and educating communities about agriculture. This includes leading educational experiences for youth and attending ag events, such as the Kansas Youth Ag Experience trip. If you are interested please contact Laurel. Application materials are due by April 15.





## THOMAS COUNTY 4-H CLUB DAY RESULTS

March 22nd, 2024

### MODEL MEETINGS

Abilene Hustlers—Top Blue

Brewster Prairie Gem— Blue

### SKITS

Abilene Hustlers— Top Blue

### PUBLIC SPEAKING (Ages 14 years & older)

Brody Stramel— Top Blue

### PROJECT TALKS

#### **\*Junior (Ages 7-9)**

Korin Gabel-- Blue

#### **\*Intermediate (Ages 10-13)**

Emery Fikan— Blue

Morgan Mattix— Top Blue

Joseph Schrick— Blue

### DEMONSTRATIONS & ILLUSTRATED TALKS

#### **\*Junior (Ages 7-9)**

Owen Baird— Blue

Macklyn Carpenter— Red

Bear Stramel-- Top Blue

Sebastian Schrick— Blue

#### **\*Intermediate (Ages 10-13)**

Max Juenemann— Top Blue

Aleha Gabel— Blue

Cort Stramel— Blue

Sophia Stramel— Blue

#### **\*Senior (Ages 14 & older)**

Elijah Gabel— Top Blue

Ella Fikan-- Top Blue

### INSTRUMENTAL SOLO

#### **\*Junior (Ages 7-9)**

Korin Gabel (viola)-- Red

#### **\*Intermediate (Ages 10-13)**

Abigail Jamison (cello)— Red

Sophia Stramel (clarinet)— Top Blue

Morgan Mattix (violin)— Red

Aleha Gabel (violin)— Blue

#### **\*Senior (Ages 14 & older)**

Elijah Gabel (cello)— Blue

Colby Kriss-Howlett (guitar)— Top Blue

### PIANO SOLO

#### **\*Junior (Ages 7-9)**

Korin Gabel— Top Blue

#### **\*Intermediate (Ages 10-13)**

Jude Horinek-- Blue

Aleha Gabel-- Top Blue

#### **\*Senior (Ages 14 and older)**

Elijah Gabel-- Blue

Reagan Frantz— Blue

Colby Kriss-Howlett— Top Blue

### DANCE

#### **\*Intermediate (Ages 10-13)**

Aleha Gabel-- Red

### READING

#### **\*Intermediate (Ages 10-13)**

Dawon Currie— Top Blue

#### **\*Senior (Ages 14 and older)**

Ella Fikan— Blue

# April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1  AH—Meeting @ 4-H Bldg. 7pm	26 PP--Practice @ 4-H Bldg. 7pm	3	4	5	6
7 Goats Across Kansas @ 2 PM	8 BPG—Meeting @ Henry Hall 7:30pm  GEM—Meeting @ Gem Comm. Bldg. 7pm  SV— Meeting @ 4-H Bldg. 7pm	26 PP--Practice @ 4-H Bldg. 7pm		11 Fairboard Mtg. @ 8pm	12	13
14	15	26 PP--Practice @ 4-H Bldg. 7pm		18	19	20  Fair Board Spring Show
21  Fair Board Spring Show	22  4-H Council Mtg.  	26 PP--Practice @ 4-H Bldg. 7pm	24	25  YQCA Training @ 6:30 PM	26	27  Small Animal Weigh-In @ 9 AM-12 PM
28	29  .	26 PP--Practice @ 4-H Bldg. 7pm				
					PP = Pawsome Paws SS = Shooting Sports AH = Abilene Hustlers	BPG = Brewster Prairie Gem Gem = Gem 4-H 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**



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