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Thomas County

K-State Research and Extension News

*Knowledge
for Life*

June 2024

Volume: 191

2024 Thomas County Wheat Plot Tour

Thursday, June 13th at 9:00 am CST

WHERE:

Solomon Creek farm, (Mike, Jeanene, & Tanner Brown)
Plot is 4.5 miles South of Levant/I-70 Interchange on the west side of the blacktop road. Meet at the plot at 9:00 am to go through the varieties with specialists.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Lucas Haag, NW Area Agronomist

Jeanne Falk Jones, NW Multi-County Agronomy Specialist



THE FAIR IS COMING!

We are just 7 short weeks away from the start of the 2024 Thomas County Fair! 4-H Family packets will be available to pick up at the office on **June 17th**. 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.



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KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION AND COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Upcoming Events

June

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

[Register here!](#)



13th--Thomas County Wheat Plot Tour:
Solomon Creek Farms

17th--Extension Day Camp
(ages 5-8)


18th--Extension Day Camp
(ages 9-12)

[Register here!](#)

July

3rd--K-State Garden Hour: Success with Cacti and Succulents

[Register here!](#)

4th--Independence Day: 
Extension Office Closed

10th--KDA Animal Health Regional Workshop in Colby

[Register here!](#)

12th--First Friday e-Call: Moving In, Moving Out, Moving Over: The Future of Housing Supply

[Register here!](#)

13th--Thomas County Fair Open Class Horse Show

20th--Thomas County Fair 4-H and Open Class Agility & Rally Shows

21st--Thomas County Fair 4-H and Open Class Showmanship & Obedience Shows

24th-- Quarterly Local Food Virtual Town Hall

[Register here!](#)



29th--August 3rd-- Thomas County Fair Week!!

August

7th--K-State Garden Hour: Establishing a More Environmentally Sustainable Lawn

[Register here!](#)

September

2nd--Labor Day: Extension Office Closed

4th--K-State Garden Hour:

Season Extension in the Vegetable Garden

[Register here!](#)



6th--First Friday e-Call: Global Exporting- Discovering New Markets

[Register here!](#)

Drought affected wheat fields call for supplemental equipment



Drought plaguing parts of Kansas created shorter wheat plants and thinner crop stands this year. In turn, Kansas State University wheat production specialist Romulo Lollato advises growers to make adjustments at harvest time.

“This year, the biggest cause for short wheat has been drought stress,” he said. “During springtime, the crop starts to go through a phase called stem elongation. That’s when plant height is determined. In certain areas, there was virtually no moisture, which caused the plants to be short.”

Not all areas of Kansas have experienced this level of drought. Lollato said irregular rain patterns gave rise to significant plant height differences across counties and even in the same fields.

“The Kansas crop is not uniformly short. A very sparse and variable rainfall distribution created these ‘waves’ within areas where tall and short plants occur, simultaneously, in those locations,” he said.

According to Lollato, producers can attach stripper headers to the front of their combines to effectively harvest small wheat plants. Stripper headers separate the grain head from the remaining plant. On the other hand, traditional headers detach plants halfway down their stems.

Lollato said, “Essentially, they have fingers on them. Those fingers pluck the heads out from the stem. The stripper headers feed the combine with only the wheat heads, which means having a cleaner product go into the combine, with increased efficiency.”

Harvesting low-standing wheat plants with a stripper header can help improve soil quality in semi-arid areas.

“They leave more crop residue behind. It will act as a barrier against weeds and shade the fields, which cools soil temperatures and delays weed emergence. Moisture retention is another important advantage. Stripper headers reduce water loss through evaporation, runoff and erosion.”

“There is a lot of value in having more residue left in the fields,” he said. “When growers plant wheat

directly into that crop residue after this year’s harvest, they get all of those benefits, like added moisture, weed control, and erosion reduction, which can help return a very good dollar amount the following summer.”

Conventional headers remain as another workable solution for operations not able to invest in additional implements.

“A stripper header is a pricey investment,” Lollato said. “However, there might be more challenges operating with a conventional header – especially on ground with a great slope – but they still work in this case.”

Making alterations to a traditional header may yield better results when harvesting stunted wheat fields with them.

“The most important thing to keep in mind is to maintain the cutting height as high as possible. You can also adjust the reel on the header to get more movement of wheat from the cutter bar to the auger,” Lollato said.

Other combine headers appropriate for harvesting poorer quality wheat stands include draper and flex heads. More information on considerations for harvesting short wheat is available in the [May 24 issue of the Agronomy eUpdate](#), published weekly by the K-State Department of Agronomy.

Cattle Chat: Monitoring for breeding success

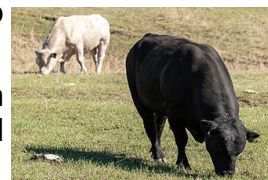
Speaking on a recent podcast, the experts at the Kansas State University Beef Cattle Institute offer advice to ensure that the breeding season is successful.

“Even though the cattle are out on pastures, it is important to check the herd daily,” K-State veterinarian Bob Larson said.

He explained that cattle walking in uneven pastures are more susceptible to foot injuries. In the case of bulls, there can also be some breeding injuries to their penises.

K-State veterinarian Brian Lubbers said, a combination of cows grazing with their heads buried in tall grasses and an increase in the fly population may cause the cattle’s eyes to become irritated, leading them to develop pinkeye.

To hear the full discussion, listen to [Cattle Chat](#) on your preferred streaming platform.



Cheer for Cherries!



It's cherry season and they are a treat in many recipes. They can be preserved in many ways also!

Freezing, dehydrating and canning are all options for cherries. Frozen cherries

can be eaten as snacks, mixed into oatmeal or used in desserts. Dehydrated cherries are great snacks, add to a leafy green salad, or mix into a trail mix. There are many options for canning cherries such as jam, jelly, pie filling, or just plain cherries canned in water or a sugar syrup. Plain cherries can be canned with or without the pits.

Learn more about canning cherries from [Preserve It Fresh, Preserve It Safe: Cherries](#).

Choosing Chocolate for Canning

Making homemade chocolate sauce can be a tasty treat. But to can a chocolate sauce safely raises some food safety risks.

Chocolate sauces are low acid foods which could be a risk for botulism food poisoning. There are no chocolate sauce recipes tested for pressure canning.

There are very few recipes that have been tested to be water bath canned. These contain fruit or bottled lemon juice to raise the overall acidity. These also contain unsweetened cocoa powder which has a red-brown color. Recipes that list cocoa powder as an ingredient use unsweetened cocoa powder. An example is [Chocolate Raspberry Sauce](#) from Newell Brands.



Left: Dutch Processed Cocoa Powder
Right: Unsweetened Cocoa Powder

Do not use Dutch-process or alkalized unsweetened cocoa powder because this will lower the overall acidity. This can lead to an unsafe product. Dutch-process cocoa powder has a dark brown color. Never substitute hot chocolate or

cocoa mixes, chocolate syrups, or chocolate bars.

A safe alternative to preserve chocolate sauce is freezing. The National Center for Home Food Preservation has a [Freezer Chocolate Fudge Sauce](#).

Source: [Canning with Chocolate](#), UCCE Master Food Preservers of El Dorado County, University of California ANR



Say Cheese: June 4 is National Cheese Day

For some, cheese day is every day, but since 1914, June 4 is officially known as cheese day in the United States. Kansas State University food scientist Karen Blakeslee said cheese provides eight essential nutrients to help build healthy bones and support the immune system.

"Cheese provides beneficial calcium and protein into a daily eating plan," Blakeslee said. "There are hundreds of types and flavors to choose from as a snack or to add to a recipe."

Blakeslee said a soft cheese can be made at home.

"A soft cheese can be made from milk and lemon juice. The acid coagulates the milk proteins to form clumps or curds which separate from the whey," she said.

Cheese comes in a variety of textures from soft to hard, and many flavors, which allows it to be used in different ways.

"To store cheese, keep it wrapped tightly with plastic wrap or in a tightly closed container," Blakeslee said. "If unwanted mold appears, remove at least one inch of the cheese (because) mold grows into the food."



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 in April. 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 8-11	Prone	Standing	Sitting	Kneeling	Total	Place
Aidyn Sturdy	76	71	71	77	295	Grand Champion
Braxton Ludowese	95	46	84	68	293	Reserve Champion
Owen Baird	71	63	66	74	274	
Kemper Eisenbart	60	66	68	48	242	
Deegan Wolf	82	36	51	67	236	
Milo Burvee	74	33	59	62	228	
Korin Gabel	63	54	47	41	205	

Senior BB Gun, ages 12-15	Prone	Standing	Sitting	Kneeling	Total	Place
Blaine Wagoner	94	81	93	92	360	Grand Champion
Elijah Gabel	81	82	82	78	323	Reserve Champion
Tinsley Wolf	85	74	83	79	321	

Air Pistol	Place
Allison Zimmerman	Grand Champion
Kellen Burvee	Reserve Champion

Air Rifle	Place
Allison Zimmerman	Grand Champion

National Shooting Sports Qualifier

After competing at the State Spring Match in April, Allison Zimmerman qualified for the National Shooting Sports Championships in the Air Pistol Discipline. Join us in congratulating her on this outstanding accomplishment and wish her luck as she competes in Grand Island, Nebraska at the end of this month!





Robotics & Electrical Day Camp

Are you interested in learning more about electrical and robotics projects? Or if you already have an electrical or robotics project you want help with, this is the clinic for you! If you do not have a project, there will be kits available to purchase at the clinic. The clinic is set for June 10 & 11 from 4 PM-8 PM at the fire station located at 1125 S Country Club Drive Colby, KS. The clinic is free to attend unless you purchase kits. Please call the extension office at 785-460-4582 to RSVP by June 7, 2024.

Extension Day Camp



Join us on June 17th or 18th from 9 AM-12PM for our annual Extension Day Camp. We will have an array of fiesta fun including crafts, snacks, STEM activities, and outdoor games. The day camp will be held in the 4-H Building at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. Anyone from 5-12 years old are welcome to participate. We always welcome volunteers for the day as well, anyone 13+ is eligible. You can register [here](#) (as a participant or a volunteer), deadline to register is June 13th.

- **June 17: 5-8 Years Old**
- **June 18: 9-12 Years Old**
- **Cost: \$10**

Livestock Nominations

June 15: Small Livestock & Commercial Heifers nomination deadline. The Rookie Guide provides step-by-step instructions [click here!](#)

Fair Packets & Rule Changes

There have been many important fair changes for 2024. All of these changes will be outlined in a document within your fair packet. It is critical that you read through your family packets thoroughly so you are aware of the fair changes as well as what rules apply to your projects. **Fair packets will be available in the office on June 17th.**



Goats Across Kansas

Join us virtually on Sunday, June 9th at 2 PM for the fourth session of the Goats Across Kansas Series "Judge's Choice". Join us as we hear from a panel of goat judges on what they look for on show day and a goat industry expert who discusses clipping, show packing lists, show day preparation and more. This session is FREE and open to ANYONE. Register [here](#) by June 6th.

Hoof Trimming Clinic



As calves grow, their hooves grow with them. Show cattle are not like commercial cattle show cattle are kept in a smaller area and are unable to wear their hooves down. This means that the hooves can grow long and become uncomfortable for calves. Hoof trimming can prevent this. Hoof trimming is an important component of owning show cattle and can greatly impact show ring success.

Cost is \$40 per head, cash or check payment only. Checks can be made out to Howard Fehlman. The hoof trimming will take place in the show arena at the Thomas County Fairgrounds on Saturday, June 29th. Start time is set for 8-8:30 AM and it takes roughly 10-12 minutes per head. All 4-H Beef projects are welcome to attend.



State 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.** All certificates of completion from online training are due to the office by **July 8th**. For questions please call the Extension Office.

Poultry Testing



Per the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), Kansas is a pullorum-typhoid-free state. Routine surveillance testing will be performed for each county a minimum of once every 5 years, as designated by KDA. Thomas County is scheduled for testing in 2024. **The Thomas County Poultry Testing date is set for July 16th at the Thomas County Fairgrounds from 4 PM—5:30 PM.** All poultry (except waterfowl) are required to show proof of being P-T clean in order to exhibit at the Thomas County Fair as well as the Kansas State Fair. If this date does not work for you, you need to call the Extension Office ASAP.



Reminder!

2024 Fair Livestock Weights Reminder

Please be aware of the weights, as some of the requirements changed in 2023. Livestock weights for the 2024 Thomas County Fair are as follows:

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

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.

Club Attendance

New for the 2023-2024 year, 4-H members wishing to participate in the livestock auction are required to attend 5 club meetings between the months of August 2023 and July 2024 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.

Open Class Entries

Open class entry will continue to be on Tuesday of Fair week (July 30th). 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 29th if they would like to do so.

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 2024 season will be held soon. Date still to be decided.

Rabbit project- 4-H members with rabbits can join other members to learn more about care taking, handling and showing their rabbit at Fair. Be watching for correspondence from Debi Wood.

Horse Project– 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.

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 shared monthly, the 3rd Monday of the month. You can find the recordings on the 4-H [website](#).

Horse Level Testing– 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.

4-H Equine Webinar Series- This series gives 4-H members, volunteers, and parents skill and knowledge about horses and the industry in Kansas. 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 2024 Kansas 4-H Wheat Expo will be held Monday, August 12th at Pottorf Hall in Manhattan, KS. The wheat expo is a fun, educational, and hands-on program showcasing all things wheat. Eight contests will be open to youth members with cash prizes and ribbons awarded. 4-H members enrolled in Foods Nutrition, Photography and Field Crops projects are encouraged to attend. More information will be available [here](#) soon.





2024 Thomas County Fair

Fair Theme: **FIESTA** at the **FAIR!**

Monday, June 17

Fair Packets Available
Registration opens on FairEntry

Monday, July 8

YQCA Certificates due to Extension Office
4-H Dog Project Pre-Entries due on FairEntry

Wednesday, July 10

All 4-H Pre-Entries (except Horticulture) due on FairEntry!!

Saturday, July 13

8:30 am– Open Class Horse show

Tuesday, July 16

4 pm - 5:30 pm - Poultry Testing

Saturday, July 20

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

Sunday, July 21

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

Monday, July 22

5:30 pm– 4-H Fashion Revue Practice
@ Celebration Community Church

Tuesday, July 23

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 25

9 am– 4-H Visual Arts Judging
1:30 pm– Demonstrations, Illustrated Talks
& Public Speaking
5:15 pm– Superintendent meeting
6 pm– Fair Set-up

Friday, July 26

4-H Horticulture entries due on FairEntry

Saturday, July 27

9 am– 4-H Horse show

Sunday, July 28

11 am–5 pm– 4-H Booth Construction

Monday, July 29

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)
11:15 am– Judging of non-livestock 4-H exhibits starts
**1 pm– All Consignment forms and payment due to
Fair Board (no late fee)**
3 pm– 4-H/FFA & Open Class Cat, Rabbit, Hand Pet,
& Poultry show
7:30 pm– KPRA Rodeo

Tuesday, July 30

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
1 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 31

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, August 1

7:30 am–10 am– Thomas Co Community Found. 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, August 2

9 am– 4-H/FFA Round Robin
1-3 pm– Release of Livestock going to lockers
4-8 pm– Release of Livestock & horse entries going home
7:30 pm– Car Race-Thomas County Speedway

Saturday, August 3

6 am - Release of livestock for resale
8 am - 4-H Fair clean-up
8 am - 9:30 am– Release of all non-livestock entries
(4-H and Open Class)
7:30 pm - Demo Derby

June 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 AH—Meeting @ 4-H Bldg. 7pm	4 PP @ 4-H Building 7 PM	5 Horse Practice @ CCC Farm 5:30 PM	6	7	8
9	10 BPG— Educational Tour & Meeting GEM—Meeting @ Gem Comm. Bldg. 7pm SV— Meeting @ 4-H Bldg. 7pm Camp Lakeside Robotics & Electrical Day Camp	11 Camp Lakeside Robotics & Electrical Day Camp PP @ 4-H Building 7 PM	12 Horse Practice @ CCC Farm 5:30 PM	13 Fairboard Mtg. @ 8pm	14	15
16	17 Fair Packets Available Registration opens on FairEntry Extension Day Camp	18 PP @ 4-H Building 7 PM Extension Day Camp	19 Horse Practice @ CCC Farm 5:30 PM	20	21	22
23	24 4-H Council Mtg. 	25 PP @ 4-H Building 7 PM	26 Horse Practice @ CCC Farm 5:30 PM	27	28	29
30					PP = Pawsome Paws SS = Shooting Sports AH = Abilene Hustlers	BPG = Brewster Prairie Gem Gem = Gem 4-H SV = Solomon Valley



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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