

www.thomas.ksu.edu

# Thomas County

## K-State Research and Extension News

Knowledge  
for Life

March 2024

Volume: 188

Laurel Despain

4-H & Youth Development

ldespain@ksu.edu

Joanna Johnson

Office Professional

joannajohnson@ksu.edu

Come work with us as a paid  
**Summer Intern!**

Become an intern with the Thomas County Extension Office to help with agriculture questions, plan 4-H events, assist with fair, all while building your resume!

Go to [www.thomas.k-state.edu/](http://www.thomas.k-state.edu/) for more information!

**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension | Thomas County

Thomas County Extension is an equal opportunity employer.

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 2024 season! Go to <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 information on upcoming events, such as County Club Day sign-up, Super Saturday, 4-H Council's Drive-Through dinner fundraiser, Small Animal Weigh-In, Camp Lakeside and more!



K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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**Fried Chicken**  
Lunch & Dinners to go!  
To Support the  
Thomas County 4-H Council

Meals Include:  
Fried Chicken,  
Corn, Mashed  
Potatoes, Biscuit,  
& a Cookie

Suggested Donation of  
**\$14**  
50% of proceeds go back to the  
Thomas County 4-H Council

Hosted by the City Limits Convention Center.  
Pull in the East entrance for the drive through pick up line.  
K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Saturday, March 30th**  
Lunch 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Dinner 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

# Upcoming Events

## March

**6th--K-State Garden Hour:** Selecting & Planting Fruit Trees for Kansas

[Register here!](#)

**6th--Field to Fork webinar:** Understanding Product Dating: Food Safety vs. Food Quality

[Register here!](#)

**6th--Farm & Ranch Transition Conference-** in Garden City. Repeated sessions will be held in Great Bend on 3/7 and in Manhattan on 3/8.

[Register here!](#)

**7th--Kansas Wheat Rx Seminar-** in Dodge City

[Register here!](#)

 **8th-- Kansas Wheat Rx Seminar-** in Wichita

[Register here!](#)

**11th-12th--Soil Matters Conference-** in Dodge City

[Register here!](#)

**12th--Crop Talk Webinar Series:** Fallow Replacement Options in Dryland Rotations

[Register here!](#)

**12th--Sunflower Production School-** in Hugoton

[Register here!](#)

**13th--Sunflower Production School-** in Burlington, CO or Online

[Register here!](#)

**13th--Field to Fork webinar:** Spuddles, Vader Tots and Small Fries: Let's Talk Potatoes!

[Register here!](#)

**13th--Living Well Wednesday webinar:** Navigating Diets, Supplements, and Women's Health in a Confusing World

[Register here!](#)

**20th--Field to Fork webinar:** Tips for Preserving the Bounty of the Harvest

[Register here!](#)

**21st--Morel Mushroom Identification-** online

[Register here!](#)



**25th & 27th--Grant Writing Workshop-** online

[Register here!](#)

**27th--Field to Fork webinar:** How to Grow Garlic & Other Alliums

[Register here!](#)

**31st--Walk Kansas begins**

[Register here!](#)

## 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!](#)



## Lawn Care

March is the month to start preparing for lawn care. As lawns begin to turn green, controlling weeds and applying fertilizer is important.

Cool-season grasses such as Kentucky bluegrass or tall fescue are among the most common cool-season grasses needing attention, said Kansas State University horticulture expert Ward Upham, who shares the following maintenance calendar:

### **March**

Spot treat broadleaf weeds, if necessary. Treat on a day that is 50 degrees or warmer. Rain or irrigation within 24 hours of application will reduce effectiveness.

### **April**

Apply crabgrass preventer when redbud trees are in full bloom, usually in April. The preventer needs to be watered in before it will start to work. One-quarter inch of water will be enough to water in any of the products commonly available. Remember that a good, thick lawn is the best weed prevention and may be all that is needed.

### **May**

Fertilize the lawn with a 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 a weed killer. Rain or irrigation within 24 hours of application will reduce effectiveness of the weed killer, but the fertilizer needs to be watered in. If you are using a product that has both fertilizer and weed killer, wait 24 hours after application before watering in.

If grubs have been a problem in the past, apply a product containing imidacloprid or chlorantraniliprole during May or anytime from May

through June for imidacloprid. These products work to prevent grub damage. If rainfall does not occur within 24 hours, irrigate with ¼ inch of water.

### **June through Mid-July**

Apply second round of crabgrass preventer by June 15 – unless you have used Dimension (dithiopyr) or Barricade (proflam) for the April application. These two products normally provide season-long control with a single application. Remember to water it in.

### **Late-July through August**

If you see grub damage, apply a grub killer that contains 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 or effectiveness drops.

### **September**

Fertilize around Labor Day. This is the most important fertilization of the year. Water in the fertilizer if rainfall does not occur.

### **November**

Fertilize. This fertilizer is taken up by the roots but is not used until the following spring. Water in fertilizer.

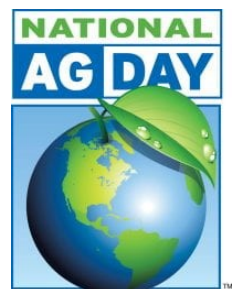
Spray for broadleaf weeds even if they are small. Broadleaf weeds are much easier to control in the fall than in the spring. Try to spray on a day that is at least 50 degrees. Rain or irrigation within 24 hours reduces effectiveness. Use label rates for all products.

## National Ag Day

Agriculture affects every aspect of our lives. From food, to clothing, to renewable fuel and much more.

[National Ag Day](#) will be March 19, 2024 with the theme of Agriculture: Growing a Climate for Tomorrow.

The website has many tools and information on how to promote the event and ideas to plan activities centered around agriculture. Event flyers, logos, social media tools, radio scripts and an essay contest are a few of the ways to participate in this event.



## Walk Kansas 2024

March 31–May 25

“Making Healthy Habits Stick”

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

### **Offered again this year:**

- ⇒ Track your miles with a cell phone app!
- ⇒ Collect online badges.
- ⇒ Walk Kansas Webinars and newsletters
- ⇒ Choose between one of 4 Team Challenges or the Purple Power Trail for solo walkers who choose not to join a team
- ⇒ This year’s colors are raspberry heather, navy heather and purple heather.



## KSRE Food Preservation Publications Updated

Food preservation education is essential to preserving food safely. Using the most up-to-date recipes and methods can lead to success. The following K-State Research and Extension publications have been updated, and a few more will be available in the next few weeks. All of these will be translated into Spanish.

- Preserving Strawberries, MF1178
- Preserving Beans, MF1179
- Preserving Cherries, MF1180
- Preserving Vegetables, MF 1181
- Preserving Peaches, MF1182
- Preserving Sweet Corn, MF1183
- Preserving Cucumbers, MF1184

- Preserving Tomatoes, MF1185 (coming soon)
- Preserving Peppers, MF1186 (coming soon)
- Preserving Apples, MF1187

### **How-to Guides**

- [How-to Guide to Water Bath Canning and Steam Canning](#), MF3241
- [How-to Guide to Pressure Canning](#), MF3242
- [10 Tips for Safe Home-Canned Food](#), MF3170
- [Sassy Safe Salsa at Home](#), MF3171
- [What’s Your Elevation?](#), MF3172

## Foods Sold Directly to Consumers in Kansas

The growth of local foods and farmers markets has been evident across Kansas. To help small food producers prepare and sell foods safely, a publication entitled “[Foods Sold Directly to Consumers in Kansas: Regulations and Food Safety Best Practices](#)” is a comprehensive guide for anyone selling food products direct to consumers. This publication also includes information on selling eggs, poultry, live plants and much more!

This publication gets updated every January, and the 2024 edition is now available. This is a joint project between K-State Research and Extension and the Kansas Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Lodging Division, and Kansas Department of Agriculture Meat & Poultry Inspection Program.

If you need assistance with the food products you would like to make and sell, the [Kansas Value Added Foods Lab](#) is a great resource for technical assistance and guidance.





## County Club Day

County Club Day will be held on March 22nd at Colby Community College. 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. **All entries are due to the Extension Office by 5 PM on March 15<sup>th</sup>.** You can email Joanna or Laurel or call our office to sign up.

Please note that due to limited entries and participation from the surrounding counties in recent years, Regional Club Day has been cancelled indefinitely.

## Super Saturday

Super Saturday is a North West Kansas judging event to be held on **Saturday, March 23rd**. In 2023, the event was held in Colby for the first time. It has moved back to Hays to start the rotation.

The event consists of judging contests including Crops, Entomology, Horticulture, Life Skills, Photography, Livestock Skill-A-Thon and Livestock judging. The event starts at 9:00 AM and will last until the conclusion of the livestock judging contest in the afternoon, I would estimate around 4:30 PM. Lunch is provided for those that register for a sack lunch and there are also project opportunities in the afternoon for those who won't participate in livestock judging. Project opportunities include: Shooting Sports, Dog Project, STEM & Club activities, as well as Fiber Arts. More details are available at this [link](#) or at the office. You can check out the registration [link here](#). Transportation to the event may be provided by Laurel.

## 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.

## 4-H Scholarships



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**.

## 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 call the office to be added to the list**, we already have our counselor positions filled for this year. This year's camp will be safari themed, welcome to the jungle!

## 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. Registration is coming soon.



## 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 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. 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 at 785-460-4582.

## 2024 Fair Livestock Weights

A reminder on livestock weights requirements for the 2024 Thomas County Fair are as follows:

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

## Junior Producer Days

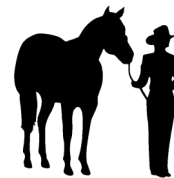
Junior producer days are held to provide educational material and hands-on experiences for youth, parents, leaders, and extension agents. Click [here](#) for the flyers, more information, and registration. **2024 Junior Sheep Producer Day:** Saturday, March 16, 2024. The registration deadline has passed, however you may still attend the event.

## Spring Shows are Coming!

Check out the Thomas County 4-H BAND group to see what shows are coming up around our area. We will be uploading new flyers as we receive them.

## 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.

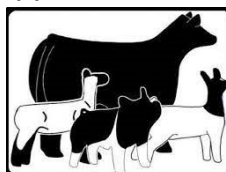
## Goats Across Kansas Series

Tune into the goats across Kansas Series to meet with a goat nutrition expert, a goat show judge, and a notable meat goat exhibiting alumni as they share their tips for success in the ring and before. The second session will be held April 7th at 2:00 pm (it will be recorded for those who register). The second session is titled, "Feeding & Showmanship" there will be more sessions so stay tuned to participate in those!

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](#).



# March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Junior Beef Producer Day
3	4 AH—Meeting @ 4-H Bldg. 7pm  GEM—Meeting @ Gem Comm. Bldg. 7pm	5	6 K-State Garden Hour  Field to Fork webinar  Farm & Ranch Transition- Garden City	7 KS Wheat Rx Seminar- Dodge City  Farm & Ranch Transition- Great Bend	8 KS Wheat Rx Seminar- Wichita  Farm & Ranch Transition- Manhattan	9
10	11 BPG—Meeting @ Henry Hall 7:30pm  SV— Meeting @ 4-H Bldg. 7pm	12 Dog Practice begins @ 4-H Bldg. 7pm  Crop Talk Webinar  Sunflower Production School-Hugoton	13 Living Well Wednesday  Field to Fork webinar  Sunflower Production School- Burlington, CO	14 Fairboard Mtg. @ 8pm	15 Thomas Co 4-H Scholarship due  County Club Day entries due	16 Junior Sheep Producer Day
17 	18	19 PP--Practice @ 4-H Bldg. 7pm  HELLO SPRING	20 Field to Fork webinar	21 Morel Mushroom Identification- online	22 County Club Day @CCC	23 4-H Super Saturday in Hays
24	25 4-H Council Mtg.  	26 PP--Practice @ 4-H Bldg. 7pm	27 Field to Fork webinar	28	29	30 Fried Chicken Fundraiser at City Limits
31 Walk Kansas begins  					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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