West Plains District

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West Plains District
Office Hours
Monday - Friday
8 AM - 5 PM
Lunch hours excluded and subject to change

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DATES ON GOING:

- January 4th-December 6th: K-State Garden Hour Webinar Series. 1st Wednesday of the month. Noon-1:00pm
- January 30th-March 13th: Walk with Ease. Finney County Fairgrounds. 4:30pm-5:30pm.

DATES TO KNOW: FEBRUARY 2023

- February 1st: K-State Garden Hour Webinar. More Plants from Your Plants- Intro to Plant Propagation. Noon-1:00pm
- February 1st: The Power of Negotiation: Land Leasing Strategies for Midwestern Ag Women. Scott City. William Carpenter Building. 5:30pm.
- February 1st: District Club Days Registrations Due.
- February 8th: The Power of Negotiation: Land Leasing Strategies for Midwestern Ag Women. Scott City. William Carpenter Building. 5:30pm.
- February 11th: District Club Days. Garden City. Horace Goode Auditorium. 9:00am
- February 12th: Wildcat Women's Basketball with KAE4-HA
- February 12th: Dog Show Practice. Scott City. 4:00pm.
- February 17th: 4-H Sewing Day. Finney County.
- February 19th-20th: Citizenship in Action. Topeka, KS.
- February 21st: Recommended Trees of SWKS. Scott City. William Carpenter Building. 6:30pm.
- February 24th: Scott County 4-H. Post Editing Workshop. Scott City. 9:00am-Noon.
- February 27th: Finney Cloverbud Club. Finney County. 4-H Building. 6:00pm
- February 27th: Scott County 4-H Council Meeting and Scott County Ambassador Meeting.
- February 28th: Scott Cloverbud Club. Scott County. 4:00pm
- February 28th: Recommended Trees of SWKS.Garden City. Finney County Extension Office. 6:30pm

DATES TO KNOW: MARCH 2023

- March 1st: K-State Garden Hour Webinar: Houseplants. Noon-1:00pm
- March 1st: State 4-H Record Books Due and Kansas 4-H Scholarship Applications Due.
- March 11th: Junior Swine Producer Day. KSU Campus.
- March 12th: Dog Show Practice. Scott City. 4:00pm
- March 14th: Basics of Vegetable Gardening. Scott City. William Carpenter Building. 6:30pm.
- March 18th: Junior Meat Goat Producer Day. KSU Campus.
- March 19th: Finney County 4-H Ambassadors Meeting.
- March 26th: Scott County Beef Tagging. 2:00pm-4:00pm
- March 27th: Finney County Cloverbud Club.
- March 27th: Finney County 4-H Council Meeting.
- March 28th: Scott County Cloverbud Club.
February is a very busy month for the agents in the West Plains Extension District and you can find more information on what they are working on in this month’s newsletter.

**February is also the month of Love with Valentine’s Day and it’s American Heart Month with February 3rd, National Heart Health Day.**

Nothing says “I love you” better than taking care of your health so you can be there for those that you love, and to show that, I encourage people to wear red on the 3rd for more awareness.

Did you know that heart disease in the United States is the leading cause of death of men, women and people? One person dies every 34 seconds in the US from cardiovascular disease. Thais is 697,000 in 2020.

For more information on heart health, visit [www.cdc.gov/heartdisease](http://www.cdc.gov/heartdisease).

West Plains Extension Agents have been participating in teaching after school programs across the district in the new year! Pictured: Carol Ann taught Gertrude Walker Elementary students about sunflowers for Kansas Day!
WHO GETS GRANDMA’S YELLOW PIE PLATE?

Presented by Carol Ann Crouch

A GUIDE TO PASSING ON PERSONAL POSSESSIONS

FEBRUARY 16, 2023 NOON

WM. CARPENTER 4-H BUILDING
SCOTT COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS FEBRUARY 10TH

Register by calling (620)872-2930
OR EMAIL CCROUCH@KSU.EDU

K-State Research and Extension
West Plains District

*FIRST 15 TO REGISTER WILL RECEIVE FREE WORKBOOK

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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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 for communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, and American Sign Language) may be requested by contacting the event contact Carol Ann Crouch at (620)872-2930. 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.
**February Garden Notes**

It may still be winter, but gardening fun never stops! Check out these helpful tips below from K-State’s Horticulture Specialist Ward Upham.

These tips, and more, can be found in the weekly Horticulture Newsletter at https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/horticulture-resource-center/horticulture-newsletter/.

**Winter Watering of Landscapes**

This has been a dry fall and winter for much of Kansas. **Watering now is important if soils are dry to help alleviate moisture stress.**

A good, deep watering with moisture reaching at least a foot down into the soil is much better than several light sprinklings that just wet the top portions of the soil. A deep watering will help ensure that the majority of roots have access to water. Regardless of the watering method used, **soil should be wet at least 12 inches deep.** Use a metal rod, wooden dowel, electric fence post or something similar to check depth. Dry soil is much harder to push through than wet.

Although all perennial plants benefit from moist soils before winter, it is especially important for newly planted or overseeded lawns as well as newly transplanted trees and shrubs due to **limited root systems.** Even trees and shrubs planted within the last 2 to 3 years are more sensitive to drought than a well-established plant. Evergreens are also more at risk because moisture is lost from the foliage. (Ward Upham)

**Conservation Trees from the Kansas Forest Service**

The Kansas Forest Service offers low-cost tree and shrub seedlings for use in conservation plantings. Plants are one to two years old and sizes vary from 8 to 18 inches, depending on species. **Two types of seedlings are offered; bareroot and containerized.** Containerized provide a higher survival rate and quicker establishment. **Orders are accepted from now through May 1st, but order early to ensure receiving the items you want.**

Orders are shipped beginning in mid-March. **Approved uses for these plants include windbreaks, wood lots, wildlife habitat, timber plantations and educational and riparian (streambank) plantings.** They may not be used for landscape (ornamental) plantings or grown for resale.

All items are sold in units. Each single species unit consists of 25 plants. For example, a unit of **Eastern red cedar has 25 trees per unit.** Though a single species unit is most commonly purchased, four special bundles are also available including a quail bundle, pheasant bundle, eastern pollinator bundle and western pollinator bundle.

**For details and an order form, go to: http://kfs.mybigcommerce.com/all-items/ Order forms are also available from local K-State Research and Extension offices.** (Ward Upham)
Handling Tips for Valentine's Day Roses

For floral arrangements:

1) **Keep the vase filled or floral foam soaked with warm water.** Add fresh, warm water daily. If the water turns cloudy, replace it immediately. **If possible, recut stems by removing one to two inches with a sharp knife. Do this under water. This allows the stems to draw in water instead of air.**

2) **Keep flowers in a cool spot (65 to 72 degrees Fahrenheit),** away from direct sunlight, heating or cooling vents, directly under ceiling fans, or near radiators.

3) **If a rose starts to wilt, remove it from the arrangement, and recut the stem under water.** Submerge the entire rose in warm water. The rose should revive in one to two hours.

For loose stems:

1) **If you can't get your flowers in a flower food solution right away, keep them in a cool place.**

2) **Fill a clean, deep vase with water and add the flower food obtained from your florist.** Be sure to follow the directions on the package.

3) **Remove leaves that will be below the waterline.** Leaves in water will promote bacterial growth.

4) **Recut stems under water with a sharp knife and place the flowers in the vase solution you've prepared.**

(Ward Upham)

Preventing Weeds in Flower Beds

Often mulch and hand-pulling does a good enough job in perennial flower beds to prevent weeds but sometimes the bed needs a little help. **In annual beds, judicious hoeing will keep weeds down until the foliage forms a canopy that prevents weed germination.** However, a lack of time may have you considering an easier way than hoeing or pulling weeds that come through mulch. **Preemergence herbicides can help though you should not expect 100% control.**

**Preemergence herbicides do not keep the weed seed from germinating but kill the young plant as it starts to grow.** It is necessary to water these products in (1/4 inch of water) so that the young weed root will contact the herbicide. **Be aware that most of these products are more effective on grassy weeds such as crabgrass rather than broad leaves such as dandelions or spurge.** These herbicides often have no effect on existing plants, so they must be applied before the weed seed germinates. **Additionally, preventers do not last forever once applied to the soil. Microorganisms and natural processes begin to gradually break them down soon after they are applied.** However, all should last long enough so that you get canopy cover before the herbicide wears off.

Read the label for information on when to apply the product, especially in relation to transplanting. Also, be sure the ornamental plants within the bed area are on the label before purchasing the product. **See below for products we can use.**

**Dimension (dithiopyr)**
- Hi-Yield Turf & Ornamental Weed and Grass Stopper
- Bonide Crabgrass & Weed Preventer

**Treflan (trifluralin)**
- Hi-Yield Herbicide Granules Weed and Grass Preventer
- Miracle Gro Garden Weed Preventer
- Preen Weed Preventer

(Ward Upham)
The American Heart Association designates every February as American Heart Month! As Valentine’s Day approaches, it is especially fitting that we consider how to help those we love keep their hearts healthy and strong.

According to the CDC, heart disease is the leading cause of death for men, women, and people of most racial and ethnic groups in the United States. One person dies every 38 seconds in the United States from cardiovascular disease and each year 1 in every 4 deaths is related to heart disease.

Americans who are at risk for heart disease are those with high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, and smoking. Also, lifestyle choices can put people at higher risk for heart disease. These choices include being overweight, an unhealthy diet, lack of physical activity, and excessive alcohol use. The month is broken down into weekly themes. Join this year’s campaign and start living a heart healthy life.

Week One: Be Physically Active
Week Two: Eat Healthier
Week Three: Track you Heart Health Stats
Week Four: Manage Stress, Sleep Better, and Quit Smoking.

West Plains is offering several programs to help gain a Healthy Heart. Join the Walk with Ease Class this winter and form a “Walk Kansas” team this spring for some physical activity. Keep an eye out for the “Hypertension Awareness & Prevention program”.

Since February is the month of love, why not celebrate it by eating Cherries. Yes, CHERRIES! This heart shaped red fruit is flavorful, versatile and healthy. It is not harvested until summer but is enjoyed throughout the year and especially during February.

Cherries are either sweet or tart. Tart cherries are called sour or pie cherries and sweet cherries include Bing cherries. Many label tart cherries as a “superfood” due to their incredible nutritional content. They are an excellent source of antioxidant flavonoids known as anthocyanins. The antioxidants ease muscle soreness after exercise, reduce the inflammation associated with gout and arthritis, help to prevent cancer, and enhance heart health. Tart cherries are one of the few foods that contain melatonin, a natural hormone that regulates our sleep cycle, so they may help you sleep better at night. They are also rich in vitamins A, C, and E, iron, potassium, magnesium, folate and fiber. And for the “cherry on top” they are low in calories with a mere 87 calories per 1-cup serving.

Cherries are found in a variety of forms including fresh, frozen, dried, canned, juice, and more! Look for tart cherries in the freezer and canned goods sections. Choose wisely, select tart cherries packed in water instead of sugar syrup. For maximum health benefits, choose dark-colored cherries.

Select fresh cherries that are firm, shiny, plump, without bruises, blemishes or mold. Cherries can be stored unwashed in a plastic bag in the refrigerator for up to 10 days. Make sure you wash them before use. Cherries are used in salads, as a topping for meat, poultry and fish, as a snack, in yogurt, smoothies, desserts, and best of all as a pie. For some recipe ideas check out the Cherry Marketing Institutes at www.choosecherries.com/recipes.

Since February is “Heart Healthy Month” include cherries in a heart-healthy meal plan. Instead of giving your love one’s chocolates on Valentine’s Day, give them a delicious cherry dish.
Food Safety Plays for Super Bowl Festivities

Football fans are always excited for the Big Game. Super Bowl Sunday is a time for family and friends to gather for a good time and good eats. More food is consumed on this day (next to Thanksgiving) than any other day of the year. Start planning now for your gameday party and remember these food safety tips for a TOUCHDOWN!

#1. KEEP IT CLEAN: Wash your hands often. Keep prep tools and surfaces clean to reduce cross contamination.

#2. COOK TO THE RIGHT TEMPERATURE: A food thermometer will prevent food safety penalties leading to foodborne illness. Three temperature rules include:
- 165°F for all poultry
- 160°F for ground meat
- 145°F for steaks, roasts, and chops

#3. WATCH THE CLOCK: Like the quarterback watches the game clock, you keep time on how long perishable food sits at room temperature. Don’t get a delay of game penalty for leaving food out for more than two hours!

#4. SERVE AT THE RIGHT TEMPERATURE: Keep hot food hot and cold foods cold. Foods held between 40-140 F can allow bacteria to grow and you could get ejected from the game.

- HOT FOODS: need a heat source
- COLD FOODS: need to be on ice

#5. TAKE CARE OF LEFTOVERS: Divide foods into smaller portions, place in shallow containers and refrigerate within 2 hours after the party
- If leftovers will not be used within 3-4 days, label and freeze for later date.
- Perishable foods sitting out at room temperature longer than 2 hours should be discarded.
- Reheat leftovers to 165 F

BY FOLLOWING THIS FOOD SAFETY TIPS YOU WILL BE THE MVP OF YOUR SUPER BOWL PARTY.
Kansas State University’s Animal Sciences and Industry Department will host **Cattlemen's Day 2023 on Friday, March 3 at Weber Hall in Manhattan.** A highlight of this year’s event will be Justin Sawyer, East Foundation Chief Science Officer, who will discuss Navigating the U.S. Carbon Market.

The **program begins at 9:30 a.m.** with K-State ASI Department Head Mike Day giving a department update followed by Sawyer's presentation. The morning program will wrap up with Glynn Tonsor, K-State Ag Economics Professor, giving a beef industry economic outlook.

"We’re excited to announce our 110th KSU Cattlemen’s Day speaker line-up," says Aj Tarpoff, K-State associate Professor and Cattlemen's Day Co-Chairman. "Our annual program strives to address key issues and to provide current information that keeps our industry efficient and relevant."

**The day starts at 8 a.m. with refreshments, educational exhibits and a commercial trade show.** Tarpoff adds, "This year we have numerous participants signed up for our allied industry trade show. Hosted on the floor in Weber Arena, the trade show provides a forum for the attendees to observe what’s new in the beef industry and network with key industry leaders."

Lunch will be smoked brisket sponsored by U.S. Premium Beef and trade show exhibitors. Cajun-spiced catfish will also be available. The afternoon sessions will feature K-State faculty and industry presentations in Weber Hall 123, 146, and 111 discussing an array of topics (see left).

**The cost to attend Cattlemen's Day 2023 is $25 if paid by February 24 or $35 at the door.** There is no charge for students who pre-register. For more information and online registration, visit **KSUBeef.org.**

The 46th Annual Legacy Bull & Female Sale will begin at 4 p.m. at the Stanley Stout Center (2200 Denison Ave). Visit **asi.ksu.edu/legacysale** to learn more about this year’s offering and to request a sale catalog.

**On March 2, the evening before Cattlemen's Day, the Tom Perrier Family will be honored as the Stockman of the Year at the Annual Stockmen's Dinner at 6 p.m. at the Stanley Stout Center.** A separate registration is required for the dinner.

Information can be found online at as.ksu.edu/stockmensdinner.
2023 Farm & Ranch Transition Conference

February 14th
9 AM - 3 PM
Gray County Rec. Center Fairgrounds
Cimarron, KS
Cost: $10

AGENDA:

9 AM - 12 PM
FARM TRANSITION BASICS
Ashlee Westerhold,
K-State Office of Farm & Ranch Transition

12 PM - 1 PM
LUNCH
Provided by: Gray County Extension Council

1 PM - 2 PM
LAWYER’S ROLE IN TRANSITION PLANNING
Kyler Knobbe
Knobbe Law Firm

2 PM - 3 PM
ACCOUNTANT'S ROLE IN TRANSITION PLANNING
Agriculture Economists:
Lindsay Bryant and Andrea Seaton
Dodge City Farm Management

REGISTER BY
FEBRUARY 10TH:
Gray County Extension Office
620-855-3821

Additional Transition Conferences:
St. John, February 15
For more information call 620-855-3821

Scott City Location Postponed!
The 4-H club has a rich history. It is our main delivery method. The club offers young people and adults to have a close connection over a long period of time or defined as high context youth development experience. Ideally, 4-H’s goal is to keep young people engaged in long-term interaction with adults. Therefore, it’s our (volunteers, agents and specialists) intent to provide a high context environment with high content educational opportunities for young people to become capable, caring citizens.

As leaders, we need to reflect on these concepts and realize we cannot do it alone. Whether you are leading your monthly club meeting or a 4-H project meeting, having two-deep leadership is very helpful.

Working in pairs expands and enhances our efforts for youth development. Allowing leaders to play to their strengths and interests. It also enables leaders to have a more flexible schedule, especially in cases of emergency.

Moving forward into this 4-H year and beyond, the West Plains Extension Board has created policy to make two-deep leadership mandatory for all 4-H Clubs. Those clubs already having two or more screened leaders in place are good to go.

Those clubs with only one screened volunteer leader in place will need to identify a co-leader and have that person enrolled in 4-H Online and going through the background screening process before March 1, 2023.

The enrollment process steps include: 4-H Online profile, references, criminal history, interview, orientation, and board approval. We are more than happy to help you sort through and begin the enrollment process, just give us a call or shoot us an email.

Reminder: District Club Days for Finney and Scott Counties will be held on Saturday, February 11 at Horace Goode Middle School.

Regional Club Days will be held on Saturday, February 23rd, at Kearney Co. More details to come.

Otis & Mary Lee Molz Cooperative Scholarship

- **SIX full-tuition and full-fees scholarships** to Garden City Community College.
- Available to current Garden City Co-op members, employees and their families.
- Open to students in any program of study.

**Application DEADLINE:** April 7th, 2023

To apply: Contact the Garden City Community College Financial Aid Office at (620) 276-5319 or apply online at [http://www.gardencity.edu](http://www.gardencity.edu)
Regional Record Book Winners:
Kayla George: Fiber Arts Finney Co.
Kayla George: Leadership Finney Co
Kayla George: Meat Goat Finney Co.
Grady Gleason: Sheep Finney Co.
Lauren Lightner: Performing Arts Finney Co.
Hailey Shapland: Photography Scott Co.

Congratulations to our Regional Winners!! Thank you to all who participated in the Regional Record Book judging.

Finney County 4-H Ambassadors helped out at Friends on the Farm event on January 26th, 2023.
FINNEY FLYERS

Ringing in the new year the Finney Flyers 4-H club met on January 8, 2023 for their monthly meeting at the 4-H building. There were 12 members, 2 leaders and 2 adults. At the meeting they discussed doing a fundraiser on March 18th by making baked goods for an auction. They also discussed club days which will be held on February 11th at Horace Good Middle School. To end their meeting they sung a song directed by song leaders Addison and Madelyn and then had a rock paper scissors tournament. Club Reporter Abigail Elam

WIDE AWAKE

The Wide Awake 4-H Club meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm on Monday, January 9th at the Finney County Fairgrounds Grandstand Rooms. The Club was led in the Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance by Gentry Hands. 26 members named something they did over Christmas break for attendance roll call. December minutes were approved as read. Leaders report included information about enrollment reminders and deadlines as well as Club Days on February 11th in Garden City. 4-H Council encouraged members to submit a Finney County Fair theme idea emailed to Christine Lightner for council consideration. Anna Lobmeyer recited her experience applying and was awarded a book. The members were asked to bring baked goods for an auction. They also discussed club days which will be held on March 18th for a skit and a craft. The club celebrated January birthdays. The next meeting will be on February 11th at Horace Good Middle School. The club will be held in the Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance. Hailey Unruh taught us how to make scrambled eggs. Song leader, Hailey Unruh, led the club in singing “Shake a Friends Hand”. Recreation leader, Mason Roark, led members in a hilariously telephone game. Next month’s meeting will be February 5, 2023 at 5:30pm at the 4-H Building. Kealie Bryant, Reporter

SHERLOCK STRIVERS

The Sherlock Strivers 4-H Club held their regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Sunday, January 8, 2023 at Hard Rock Lanes bowling center. Prior to gathering for the meeting, club members started the evening with some bowling fun. The meeting was then called to order by club president Halle Jones. Roll Call was – What was your favorite Christmas gift? Club members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the 4-H Pledge. Reports were provided by Secretary Adison George, Treasurer Madison Schreibvogel, and Reporter Katelyn Novack. In old business, thank you cards were read from the Senior Center for our contributions to Santas for Seniors and 4-H agent Janet for the baby gift given to her from the club. Receipts for receipt purchases were also approved for reimbursement. In new business, club members discussed upcoming club days which will be Saturday, February 11 in Garden City. The deadline for entries is Wednesday, February 1. The club voted to do a skit again this year and those who would like to participate will receive information on practices. Also, free bowling passes from Hard Rock Lanes were awarded to the top bowlers of the night in each 4-H age group. In announcements, club members were informed that the next meeting will be on Sunday, February 5th at Holcomb Elementary School. Submitted by: Katelyn Novack, Reporter

BEACON BOOSTERS

Beacon Booster’s 4-H club had their meeting on January 23, 2023 at the Finney County 4-H Building. There were 11 members and 7 parents present. The club played Kansas State Trivia and Balloon Stomp. They discussed 4-H club days as well as the schedule for the 2023 Finney County Fair. They discussed 4-H promotion ideas and decided to do posters for schools and hand out 4-H swag. Baylee Hutcheson did a CPR presentation and Jarica Hutcheson read a book. The members were asked to bring community service ideas to the February meeting. The club celebrated January birthdays. The next Beacon Booster Club meeting will be February 27, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. the place to be determined. Jake Knoll, Reporter

HAPPY HUSTLERS

The monthly meeting of the Happy Hustlers 4-H Club was called to order by Vice President Lauren Gigot at 5:30pm on January 8, 2023 at the 4-H Building. Fourteen members answered roll call by naming a Kansas symbol. Officer reports were given. Club Leader Karen Murrell reminded members about 4-H Club Days in February at Horace Good Middle School. There was no old business. For new business, a motion was passed to participate in 4-H Club Days. On the program, Hailey Unruh taught us how to crochet a chain stitch, Kinley Unruh taught us how to set a table and Paxton Alexander taught us how to make scrambled eggs. Song leader, Hailey Unruh, led the club in singing “Shake a Friends Hand”. Recreation leader, Mason Roark, led members in a hilarious telephone game. Next month’s meeting will be February 5, 2023 at 5:30pm at the 4-H Building. Kealie Bryant, Reporter