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# Harper County

K-State Research and Extension News

*Knowledge  
for Life*

**Spring 2015**

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## **Walk Tall, Walk Strong; Theme for Walk Kansas-2015**

Get your walking shoes ready— it is time for Walk Kansas 2015. This year, we challenge you to “walk tall” and “walk strong” as you journey across the state. Gather your team of six, choose a captain, register your team at the extension office and start walking!

The deadline to register a team is March 15th, you can contact the extension office for more information.



## **Christy Depenbusch, New Harper County FCS Agent**

Please help us welcome our new Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) agent Christy Depenbusch. Christy is a recent graduate of Kansas State University with a degree in Family Studies and Human Services. Originally from Harper, Christy will be a great addition to the Harper County extension service.

Please join us on Wednesday, March 25 from 1-4 pm for a come and go reception for Christy at our office, 819 Central in Harper.

## **EMG's To Host Fairy Garden Class**

The Harper County Extension Master Gardeners will be hosting a create your own fairy garden class. For \$25.00 the EMG's will supply the container, plants and some figurines or decorative items and you will get to take home 10"x18" fairy garden for your outside space.

The class will be held at the Harper County Fair Building (northeast room) on Thursday, April 30, 2015 from 6-8 PM. Registration and fee are due in the extension office by April 23rd to hold your spot and class size is limited to 25 participants.

You may cancel up to 7 days in advance for a full refund. Fee is non-refundable after April 23rd. Contact the Harper County Extension office for more information or with questions at 620-842-5445.

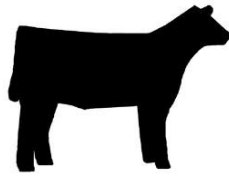




## **\*\*IMPORTANT DATES\*\***

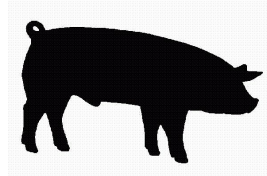
### **Beef Weigh-in**

Market beef weigh in will be held at the Anthony Livestock facility on **Saturday, April 18 from 8-10 am.** To be eligible to show at the Harper County Fair, all market beef must be tagged and weighed on this date.



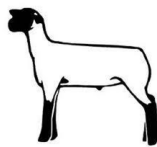
### **Swine Tagging**

Again this year all swine will be tagged on the farm **before May 2nd** to be eligible to show at the Harper County Fair. 4-H families will need to contact the extension office to schedule an appointment to get their animals tagged.



### **Sheep & Meat Goat Tagging**

All sheep and meat goats will be tagged and weighed in on **Saturday May 2nd.** The sheep will start at 9 am with the goats immediately following approximately 9:30. All animals will be vet-checked before getting out of their trailer. To be eligible to show at the Harper County Fair, your project must be tagged and weighed by this date.



### **Breeding Livestock Projects**

Breeding livestock and dairy projects do **NOT** need to be tagged by the May 2nd deadlines.

### **Project Meetings**

We have some great volunteers that have put together some countywide project meetings. Please take advantage of these opportunities to learn. Even if you are an experienced 4-Her you might pick up something new or you may be able to help a new 4-Her with their project experience. Volunteers are an important part of the 4-H program, let's show our appreciation to them by participating.

### **Deadlines for KJLS and KSF**

Nomination deadlines for the Kansas Junior Livestock Show and the Kansas State Fair are as follows:

- Steers (w/ DNA)- May 1
- Market Heifers (w/DNA)-May 1
- Com. Breeding Heifers- June 15
- Lambs (w/ DNA)-June 15
- Meat Goats (w/DNA)- June 15
- Swine (w/ DNA)- June 15 & must be PQA Plus certified by nomination time. The extension office will host a PQA Plus certification if there are youth in the county that need it.

DNA envelopes are available in the extension office free of charge. This is a reminder to plan ahead; do not wait until the last minute to request the number of envelopes you may need. Also nomination forms must be signed by an extension agent and June is a busy month and there are many days we are out of the office.

## Discovery Days

This year's theme for Discovery Days is "Be MARVELous and make an IMPACT". Discovery Days is a mini college experience designed for youth who are 13-18 years of age as of January 1.

Youth will have the opportunity to select classes and attend social functions.

Registration is open at [www.kansas4-h.org](http://www.kansas4-h.org) and will close on April 15, 2015. Dates of Discovery Days are May 26-29, 2015. Classes are filled on a first come first served basis, so sign up early.

## Campference 2015

4-H Campference is for youth ages 12-14 as of January 1, 2015 and will be held May 31-June 3 at Rock Springs 4-H Center. Participants will experience the feel of a conference, while enjoying the 'camp' activities Rock Springs 4-H Center has to offer.

This is a great transitional opportunity, as these tweens go from being a camper to attending educational conferences. 4-H Campference will feature workshops about opportunities in the 4-H program and how to better interact with others. Participants will meet other youth from around the state of Kansas.

Register early as the space will fill on a first come basis, and Campference was full in 2014! Register online by May 1 and payment and participation form must be in the local extension office on May 1. Registration and detailed information is on the State 4-H Website at [www.kansas4-h.org](http://www.kansas4-h.org)



## **Who needs to be a VIP volunteer?**

Any adult working with 4-H youth on a regular basis needs to be a screened through the Kansas 4-H Volunteer Information Profile system or VIP.

## **For continuing Volunteers:**

All volunteers must be screened and appointed by the local Extension Unit Board and all will be rescreened every three years. Nov 1, 2017, is the first re-screening due for volunteers registered prior to August 1, 2014.

Continuing volunteers are still required to fill out an annual 4-H volunteer renewal form and turn into the Extension office by November 1.

## **For NEW Volunteers:**

As of August 1, 2014, all new volunteers must complete the new process prior to assuming the duties of the position. They must complete an application, a face-to-face interview, reference check, orientation, background check (two parts) National Criminal Background Check (CBC) (online) and Kansas Child Abuse and Neglect Central Registry (Ks Department for Children & Families, DCF). Applicants must be approved and appointed by the local Extension board. Appointed names will be in or attached to the Board minutes.

Cost of Initial screen will be \$22.50. Between August 1, 2014 and August 31, 2015 K-State Research & Extension will pay the screening cost for **NEW** Volunteers.

## Attention Campers

It is time to sign up for 4-H Camp at Rock Springs 4-H Center! 4-H Camp is open to all youth who have completed 3rd through 7th grades.

Campers will have the opportunity to canoe, explore, fish, learn archery, do crafts, enjoy a campfire, go down the "Big Slide" plus much more!

Registration is due in the Harper County Extension office by 5:00 pm May 1, 2015. There will be no grace period on this.

The cost of camp is \$175 which includes a camp t-shirt (see logo below) as well as transportation from the area to camp and back. A **\$50 CANCELLATION FEE WILL BE APPLIED FOR ALL CANCELLATIONS AFTER HOUSING HAS BEEN SET.** You can access the registration form on the website at [www.harper.ksu.edu](http://www.harper.ksu.edu)



## Calling Future Camp Counselors

Did you have a great time when you went to 4-H Camp? Want to help another 4-Her have the same great experience? Want to go to camp for free? Then apply to be a camp counselor.

As a counselor you will be responsible for a group of nine campers of the same sex and age level from several different counties for 24 hours a day during camp, June 15-18, 2015.

Your specific duties would include:

- Participate in Sunny Hills 4-H Camp Counselor training the day before camp starts, **June 14, 2015.**
- Know where your campers are at all times (including free time) and be present at critical times.
- Promote a helping relationship by interacting with your living group at all times during camp.
- Be aware of health, safety and well-being of your campers. Check for illness or injury. Report major health problems to camp nurse. Supervise taking medicine when appropriate.
- See that you, your living group and fellow counselors know and observe camp rules, including the camp dress code.
- Help your living group make a wide variety of choices for activities and participate with campers.
- Be sensitive to campers personalities, differences, and needs.

Contact the extension office for an application or with any questions before Friday May 8, 2015

## Springtime Tips for Beef Producers

Calving season is finishing up and producers are on their way to the next phase of production; breeding season and summer grazing. Here are a few friendly reminders for you.

- Handle semen properly and use correct artificial insemination techniques to maximize fertility.
- With natural service bulls, closely monitor body condition, eyes, feet, legs and reproductive parts during the breeding season. Resolve any problems immediately.
- Make sure all bulls pass a breeding soundness examination prior to turnout.
- Begin your calf preconditioning program. Vaccination, castration and parasite control at a young age will decrease stress at weaning time. This is a time to add value to the calf crop.
- Implant calves older than 60 days of age to increase weaning weight.
- Properly identify all cows and calves. This can help in cases of theft.
- Use best management practices (BMPs) to establish sustainable grazing systems.
- Use good management practices when planting annual forage sources and harvesting perennial forages.
- Maintain records that will verify calving season, health programs, and management practices.



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## Hessian Fly in Wheat– SE Kansas

Researchers scouting fields in Neosho county discovered Hessian fly in a field of Everest on Feb. 25. The field was planted in late September.



Infested tiller



## Extension CAFÉ

### *Shrubs Made Easy*

Jason Griffin, Dir.

John C Pair Horticulture Center

Dr. Griffin will unlock the secrets to maximizing the flowers or fruits of your favorite shrubs. Come learn how easy pruning and caring for your shrubs can be.



April 2<sup>nd</sup> from noon-1:00 pm at Anthony Wellness Center

April 9<sup>th</sup> from noon-1:00 pm at Harper County Extension Office with Jenni Carr



For more information contact  
Jenni Carr at 620-842-5445



### Cut Back Ornamental Grasses

March is a good time to remove dead foliage from ornamental grasses. Grasses green up earlier if foliage is removed and are more attractive without a mixture of dead and live leaves. A number of tools can be used including hand clippers, weed whips (if the foliage is of a small enough diameter), weed whips with a circular blade, or even a chain saw. Use the top of the chainsaw bar to cut so the saw doesn't pull in debris and clog.



It is also often helpful to tie foliage together before cutting so it doesn't interfere and is easier to dispose of. Burning is another option — but only if it is safe and legal to do so. Note that these grasses may not burn long, but they burn extremely hot. Even so, the crown of the plant is not damaged and new growth appears relatively quickly. If the center of the clump shows little growth, the plant would benefit from division. Dig up the entire clump and separate. Then replant the vigorous growth found on the outer edge of the clump.

# Upcoming Events

## 4-H Events

Mar 28, Harvey County 4-H Spring Beef Show @ Newton Fairgrounds

April 25, 30th Annual Cowley County Classic Beef Show @ Winfield Fairgrounds

May 2, Barber County Spring Livestock Show @ Barber County Fairgrounds

May 26, Discovery Days @ Manhattan

May 31, Campference @ Rock Springs 4-H Center

June 15, Sunny Hills 4-H Camp @ Rock Springs 4-H Center



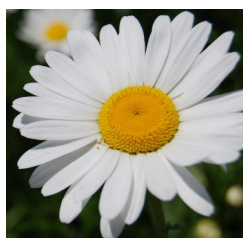
## Agriculture Events

March 30, Red Hills Regional Water Group Public Meeting, Medicine Lodge

May 13, Harper County Wheat Plot Tour

May 19, South Central Kansas Experiment Field– Spring Field Day, Hutchinson

May 21, Canola Harvest Clinic, Harper



## Horticulture Events

April 5, Ext. Café-Shrubs Made Easy with Jason Griffin, Anthony Wellness Center

April 12, Ext. Café– Shrubs Made Easy with Jenni Carr, Ext. Office

April 30, "Create your own fairy garden " class– Harper Fair Barn

June 27, Garden Tour– Harper County



Harper County  
Courthouse, 4th Floor  
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Please like us on Facebook! Search for K-State Research & Extension, Harper County and click the “like” button.

We are beginning to post our events and activities on Facebook and are able to reach you more quickly with news and upcoming events. If you “like” us we are more likely to reach others in the county that don’t know of the services we provide.

Prefer to be added to our email list or mail list? Let us know!

**Kansas State University, County Extension Councils, Extension Districts, and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating.**

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