

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!



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HAPPY
HOLIDAYS



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Agriculture & Natural Sources

Martin Gleason, Agent

The Power of Negotiation & Communication

Land Leasing Strategies for Midwestern Ag Women

A 4-PART WORKSHOP FOR
LANDOWNERS AND TENANTS

JAN. 18 & 25

FEB. 1 & 8

Kansas State University will host a four-part series on land leasing strategies at 34 locations in Kansas beginning Jan. 18.

The Power of Negotiation and Communication: Land Leasing Strategies for Midwestern Agriculture Women, is a series presented through K-State Research and Extension farm economist Robin Reid says the sessions are open to all participants. The topics are equally important to males and females. In Kansas, agricultural land covers more than 49 million acres, of that land, 55% is farmed or grazed with a lease agreement. Many farms and ranches rely on leased ground to have an adequate amount of land to maintain a viable farming operation.”

The program – held each week Jan.18 through Feb. 8, 2023-on Wednesday evenings – will teach principles of managing land leases as a tenant and landlord. The goal is for participants to acquire skills they can apply directly their own agricultural lease situation.

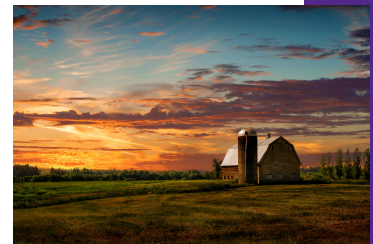
Topics that will be covered include:

- **An overview of the agricultural economy, and how it affects land values and lease rates.**
- **Advantages and disadvantages of various types of leases.**
- **Kansas lease law and fence law.**
- **Why a lease agreement should be in writing and what it should include.**
- **Best practices of negotiating and communicating about a lease.**
- **Conservation programs and practices.**

CONTINUED...four-part series on land leasing strategies

The program also will be helpful to farmers and ranchers who sometimes find themselves working with multiple landowners that, are becoming more geographically and generationally removed from agriculture. Individuals often become landowners through inheritance of a family estate or because they outlive their spouse. Suddenly becoming a landowner and working with a farm tenant can be particularly challenging if you do not have knowledge of current farming practices, lease laws and going market rates.

More information about the series is available online at www.agmanager.info/events (look for the link to The Power of Negotiation and Communication.) An online option is available for those not able to make it to one of the 34 sites in Kansas. The program will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (Central time) on four consecutive Wednesdays.



Farm Transition meetings coming in February

In the next 20 years U. S. farms will transition on the average of 15 per hour. This is an alarming static. It illustrates the need for estate planning and transfer farm operations from one generation to then next. In Kansas, the average age of an agricultural producer is 58.1 years old, according to the 2017 Census of Agriculture. The same report indicates 66% of those who farm in the Sunflower State are more than 55 years old. What that means, according to Ashlee Westerhold director of the Office of Farm and Ranch Transition at Kansas State University, is that “most of our farmers or ranchers could retire sometime in the next 10 years.”

Westerhold will present a series of Farm Transition meetings in February 2023. Westerhold will present strategies to initiate the process for a successful farm succession. The program will also include an attorney and an accountant to discuss the legal and financial aspects of the process. The series will be held on Friday February 11, 2023 in Ottawa; Monday February 13 in Garden City; February 14, 2023 in Cimarron; and February 15, 2023 in St. John.

Final details and registration information will be coming soon, but we highly encourage you to consider attending one of the sessions.



In anticipation of calving season, the Kansas State University Department of Animal Sciences and Industry and K-State Research and Extension are planning a series of calving schools in January.

The program will outline overall calving management that includes stages of the normal calving process as well as tips to handle difficult calving situations. K-State Research and Extension beef veterinarian A.J. Tarpoff said organizers aim to increase producers' knowledge and practical skills – as well as the number of live calves born.

“Our goal is for producers to leave better prepared for calving season,” Tarpoff said “We will discuss timelines on when to examine cows for calving problems, and when to call your vet for help if things are not going well. We will also discuss calf care early in life. It’s an excellent program regardless of experience level.”

Tarpoff said the program includes tips on when and how to intervene to assist the cow or heifer. Presenters will also demonstrate proper use of calving equipment on a life-size cow and calf model.

The meetings will have other timely educational topics determined by each location.

THE SCHEDULE INCLUDES:

- **Tuesday, Jan. 3, evening, Kiowa County Fairgrounds, Greensburg. RSVP to the Comanche County extension office at 620-582-2411, levimiller@ksu.edu.**
- **Tuesday, Jan. 10, evening, Ellsworth Recreation Center. RSVP to the Midway District extension office at 785-483-3157, cllaflin@ksu.edu.**
- **Thursday, Jan. 12, evening, 4-H Building at the Old Iron Club, Fredonia. RSVP to Wildcat District at 620-378-2167, Southwind District at 620-365-2242, or Greenwood County at 620-583-7455.**
- **Thursday, Jan. 19, evening, Mankato Community Center. RSVP to the Post Rock extension office at 785-738-3597, blairet@ksu.edu.**



Family & Consumer Science

Trisha Greene, 21 Central Director & Agent

Edwards County Senior Center

The past few years Edwards County has lacked a senior center location due to the previous one needing renovations. In the last few weeks our Economic Development Director Heather Strate has asked city council to consider housing a senior center in their activity room. It was agreed upon and a committee was formed to help bring food and activities. As a member of this committee, I will be hosting various programs from time to time. Please like our Facebook group “**Edwards County Senior Center**” or watch the local newspaper for updated schedule of events.

Every Wednesday there will be a meal for adults 55 and over from 11am to 1pm. Local Businesses are asked to sponsor this meal and a few volunteers from the committee cook it. If you are interested in sponsoring a meal, please reach out to Heather Strate at 620-659-2711.



Sponsors Welcome
CONTACT
Heather Strate
620-659-2711



Child Care Update...

EDWARDS:

With five new daycares in the county, equaling six, the childcare committee is proud of the work they have done since April 2021. Even though there are multiple new daycares, the committees work is not done. From here on out, their goal is to help sustain the daycares through new supplies, unexpected costs and repairs that the buildings may need.

Recently, we've received a \$5,000 grant from Southwest Community Foundation for classroom supplies. All daycares in the county are receiving a set of magna tile toys and a sensory table. By supplying our daycares with these fun building blocks, we are providing them the opportunity to work on their fine motor skills, critical thinking skills, problem solving, imaginative play and creativity. The committee is also putting on an annual New Year's Eve party to help raise yearly funds. If interested in attending the event, contact Trisha. Limited tickets are being sold.

Yescenia Lopez is the provider at the new Lewis location. She has been waiting patiently for her license and has received it as of December 13th. As she awaits the last step, the initial inspection, she expects to open after the New Year. If interested in a daycare spot with Yescenia, contact her at 316-680-4572.

STAFFORD:

On November 16th you may have seen two halves to a modular enter St. John. Sitting at 402 east 5th is the location for two new daycares. In the upcoming months the committee will work with contractors on getting the building Kansas State Fire Marshall ready. There will also be some cosmetic updates to the building including carpet, a new kitchenette, paint, fencing, and sidewalks. There's lots of behind the scenes work that goes into making sure the buildings are ready for licensure and a new provider.

The committee is currently seeking two individuals to run a daycare business out of the modular. If you or know of someone that's interested, please email staffordcochildcare@gmail.com. We are accepting and reviewing applications from people interested in being providers. Once individuals are selected, they will need to become licensed by KDHE which is a 90+ day process.

While the committee is currently working on the need in St. John, they are fully aware the need is county wide. Even though this project is the focus right now, our goal is to continue to address the need in other communities within our county as well.





Medicare: Plan D (prescription drug plans)

Between October 15th and December 7th is the open enrollment period for Plan D coverage. This year Trisha was able to save close to \$33,000 between Edwards and Stafford counties. Trisha took a couple days in each county to go over drug plans with Medicare participants. Each year it's a good idea to go over your Plan D coverage and make sure you have the right plan that fits you. Drug plans all depend on the drugs you take and the pharmacy you use.

Both of these factors can change year to year, which is why it's good to get it checked. If you've never reviewed your drug plan, be sure to mark your calendar for next year. If you have questions, don't hesitate to reach out.



K-STATE
Research and Extension

21 Central
District

Jobs & Careers
Job opportunities

Job Openings

Starting a new year, we are excited for a couple new job opportunities. The first position we have open is a Family and Community Wellness Agent.

This position will focus on providing leadership for the development and implementation of research-based educational programming to build healthy, sustainable communities, families and individuals. Programming may include but is not limited to: strengthening families and individuals, building community capacity, family and community health and wellness, and local volunteer development.

The job position opens on January 11 and closes on February 8. On January 11 you can find the position description and details to apply, here https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/jobs/current_openings/index.html.

After this opportunity is presented and filled, we will be looking for an Ag Agent in the spring. If you or someone you know might be interested, don't hesitate to reach out with questions.



4H Youth & Development

Marissa Hurst, Agent

Afterschool Program

This fall and winter season the Stafford County Afterschool programs have been involved in a lot of fun activities! In October, they got to make Halloween Lava Lamps and Puking Pumpkins where they learned about making a hypothesis and chemical reactions. In November, they learned how to follow simple recipes by making pumpkin pie in a bag. In December, they learned that snowflakes are unique due to many different factors. They made the connection that they as people are also all unique! We celebrated winter by making our own unique snowflakes.



**LEADERSHIP
GROWS HERE.**

Kansas 4-H programs help kids grow into confident, capable and caring adults. Give your child the skills to lead for a lifetime.

K-STATE
Research and Extension



Achievement Nights

In November, 21 Central District celebrated all the accomplishments of the two counties. Achievement Nights are meant to celebrate all that our youth, leaders, volunteers, and families have done throughout the 4-H Year. These awards range from our first-year membership pins to the Key award. We also award top project record forms and 4-Hers who have gone above and beyond during the 4-H year. Congratulations to all who received a special award!

Congratulations!

Stafford Schools Showcase

The 4-H in Schools Pilot program has been going well! In this program, each student gets to see 4-H Curriculum first hand while at school. They are allowed to choose from multiple “projects” and choose the one that they are most interested in. These projects are projects that the teachers are comfortable teaching as they act as the “project leaders.” Some of these projects include Fiber Arts, Food Science, Sports Nutrition, and Healthy Foods. They go to “project meetings” each Monday to learn more about the project that they “enrolled in.” At these meetings, they fill out record books to help them set goals and remember what they did at meetings. They also have the opportunity to showcase all of the knowledge they gained during the nine weeks at an Exhibit Night. In October, the school combined the Exhibit Night with Parent/Teacher Conferences. This gave youth a chance to show their parents what they learned throughout the quarter.

Thus far, the project has been well received and has been working well. Here is what some of the students and staff have said:

WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU HAVE LEARNED FROM 4-H IN SCHOOLS?

- "I learned how to knit!"
- "I learned you can make different foods with different types of flour!"
- "I learned how to finger knit."
- "I learned about different types of sugars."

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF 4-H MONDAY?

- "I'm learning new things that I don't learn in school."
- "I'm not bored in school anymore; I look forward to 4-H Mondays!"
- "I enjoy seeing the kids grow in confidence when learning something new. Kids who didn't show grit, have started to in this program."

WHAT DO YOU LEARN WHEN YOU WORK IN GROUPS FOR PROJECTS?

- "Projects aren't just about yourself. It's about teamwork."

WHAT DID YOUR PARENTS SAY ABOUT YOUR PROJECTS?

- "Oh, that's cool! You learned how to finger knit! And then she bought me some yarn." Eventually, I would like to implement this program into more schools in the district!



Volunteers Needed!

It's that time of year again where we start asking for volunteers for our 4-H program. Volunteers help our 4-H activities run smoothly and ensure that our youth get the most out of our 4-H program. Just like our youth, volunteers have their choice in what they would like to volunteer in!

We are always looking for volunteers as project leaders. There are currently 47 projects that youth can choose from. That means there are 47 projects that you can choose from to volunteer in! We have multiple projects that we can always use leaders in.

There is also the ability to do things such as judge record books, act as a superintendent at the county fair, or even donating to our programs! If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact me for resources that we have that can help you, any questions you may have, and information on how to become a registered volunteer! I hope you'll consider working with our youth!

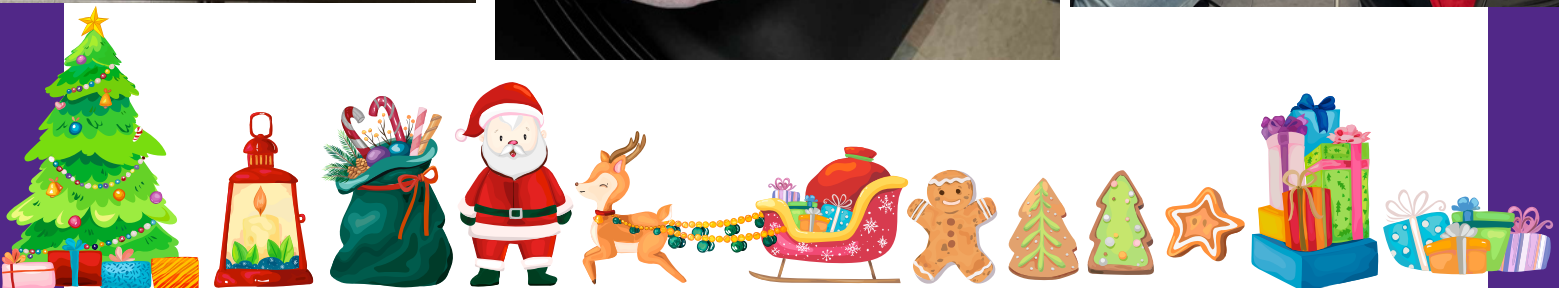
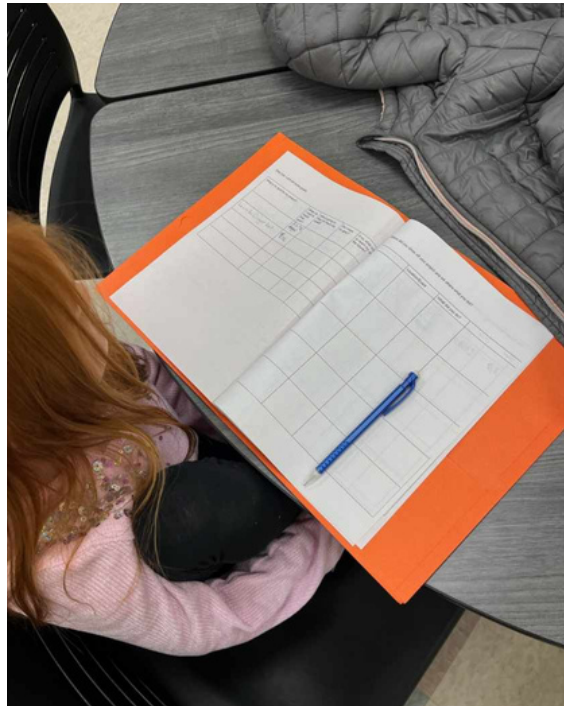
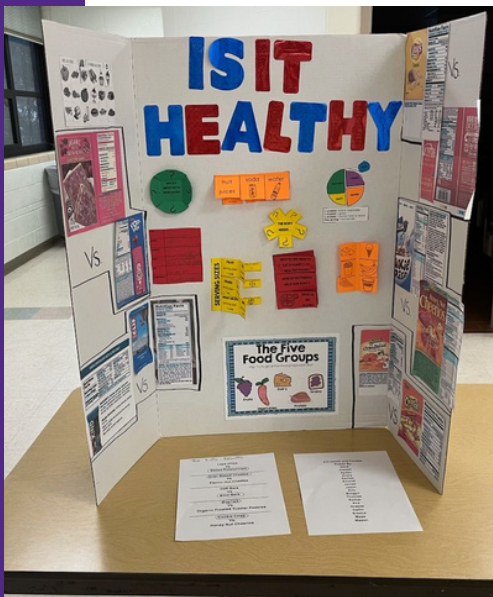
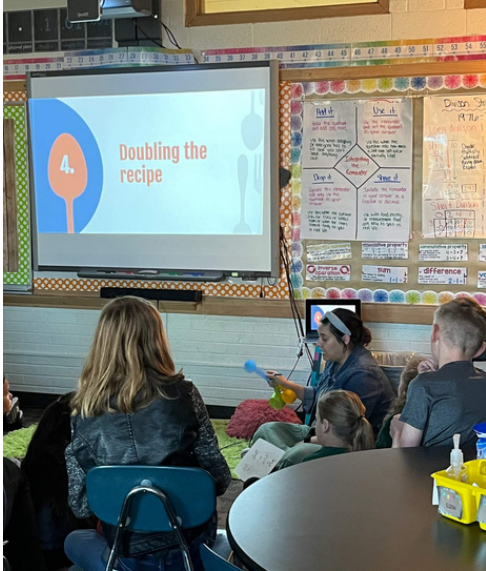


Interested in Joining?

If you have any interest in joining our 4-H programs, please reach out to me. I would love to talk more to you about how to join the program, what you can expect from 4-H, and how I can help you get started! If you would like more information about our programs, please call me at 620-549-3502 or email me at mlhurst@ksu.edu!



4H IN USD 349 STAFFORD, KS



STAFF & OFFICE INFORMATION

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8 am to 5pm



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St John, KS 67576

Hours: Monday - Friday
8 am to 5 pm



Hours are subject to change
and lunch hours excluded

Find us on the web at

www.21central.k-state.edu

on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/KSRE21Central/>



Edwards County - Kinsley

IMPORTANT DATES

December 22 - Due to inclement Weather

December 23-30 - Closed for Christmas

January 2, 2023 - Closed for New Year's

July 10-15 - Stafford County Fair (2023)

July 18-22 - Edwards County Fair (2023)



Stafford County - St John

Find us on 

The Extension Office provides a variety of services. If you see a program being covered in a different community or are- interested in a particular topic that's not being covered, reach out! We are happy to distribute the services we offer district wide, some times it takes businesses, organizations or individuals to request the service to help us get in your community. Help us help you!



Pictured: Marty Gleason, Marissa Hurst, Trisha Greene, Maribel Tovar and Jean Huntley.

WE WISH YOU
*Merry
Christmas*
& HAPPY NEW YEAR

