

River Valley District

K-STATE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION NEWS

rivervalley.ksu.edu

April 2018
Volume 13 #4

BELLEVILLE OFFICE

1815 M Street
Belleville, KS
66935-2242
Phone: (785) 527-5084
rp@listserv.ksu.edu

CLAY CENTER OFFICE

322 Grant Avenue
Clay Center, KS
67432-2804
Phone (785) 632-5335
cy@listserv.ksu.edu

CONCORDIA OFFICE

811 Washington—Suite E
Concordia, KS
66901-3415
Phone: (785) 243-8185
cd@listserv.ksu.edu

WASHINGTON OFFICE

214 C Street—Courthouse
Washington, KS
66968-1928
Phone: (785) 325-2121
ws@listserv.ksu.edu

Check us out on the Web at:
www.rivervalley.ksu.edu
or on Facebook @ River Valley
Extension District

K-STATE
Research and Extension

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

ksre.k-state.edu

BROCKUS BIDS FAREWELL TO RVED

Time sure does fly by! It is hard to believe that I have been the Livestock Production Agent for over 3 years now. It has been great getting to know the communities within our four county district. I feel like I have learned as much from you as hopefully you learned from me through my extension programming efforts.

It has been a blessing working for the producers in River Valley. One thing I have discovered over the past three years is that you should never stop learning. Even though I spent over 6 years in school, I learned so much just visiting one on one with our great producers in this area. Everyone has something to contribute, and I feel as though the producers in River Valley have contributed significantly to my understanding of cattle handling, facility design, nutrition management, and agricultural economics. I appreciate that, over time, I was able to earn the trust of many producers. I enjoyed being a reliable source of extension education within the livestock production area. Thank you for giving me that chance and trusting me to improve your operation in an effort to pass your farm and ranch on to the next generation.

Thank you to the great families and 4-H members that I have worked with over the last three years. I have enjoyed getting to see the 4-H'ers grow and be outstanding citizens. It has been an honor to see those who have graduated out of the 4-H program and seek both agricultural and non-agricultural degrees. I feel honored to have been a part of investing in the youth in River Valley through the livestock program. It has been great to see how far these 4-H'ers come from livestock weigh in to county fair. I see that they truly care for their livestock projects and will be great spokesman for the industry in the future. It has been a joy to see those kids who have participated in Livestock Sweepstakes grow from year to year in their public speaking skills through giving multiple sets of reasons while participating in livestock judging. Thank you to those kids who always knew how to make me smile, even on the hard days. I look forward to continue seeing these young people grow and reach their goals.

I appreciate the opportunity to have served as the River Valley District Livestock Production Agent. I wish you all the best in the future and don't forget, GO CATS! **Katelyn Brockus**

IS AGRICULTURE A HIGH-RISK OCCUPATION?

Most of you reading this are likely involved in agriculture in some capacity. Do you think of being a farmer or rancher as a high-risk occupation? The reality is that farming and ranching is a dangerous, high-risk occupation. A 2017 report from the U. S. Department of Labor contains some staggering statistics and emphasizes the need for safety.

There were 5,190 fatal work-related injuries in 2016. This is the first time that more than 5,000 fatal injuries have been reported since 2008. In 2016, farmers, ranchers, and agriculture managers were the second greatest civilian occupation with regard to fatal work-related injuries; with 260 reported fatalities in 2016. Sales and truck drivers had the greatest number of fatal work injuries (918).

These statistics are sobering. Agriculture can be a dangerous business, and many times our daily activities put us on the road hauling commodities, equipment, and livestock. The need for safety in our industry is real and present; don't be complacent about your safety and the safety of those around you. The full report from the U.S. Department of Labor may be accessed at <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/cfoi.pdf>. For more information, contact Justin Waggoner at jwaggon@ksu.edu.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

BODY CONDITION SCORING: IT'S ABOUT MORE THAN THE SCORE

Body condition scoring is one of the most valuable management tools at the disposal of the cattle manager. This one number gives us a direct indication of an individual cow's previous plane of nutrition and future reproductive capability. Although the individual body condition scores are important, we don't necessarily manage individual cows, we manage groups of cows. Thus it is important for us to look beyond the individual scores and look at the distribution of body condition scores within the herd.

If we have a herd (Herd A) with an average body condition score of 5 that is essentially characterized by the classic bell curve, with a few thin cows (3.5's), the bulk of cows in the middle (4's and 5's) and few over-conditioned cows (7's) everything is good. Alternatively we could have a herd (Herd B) with an average body condition score of 5 that is essentially the result of a few thin cows (3's) and some over conditioned cows (6's and 7's). Body conditioning scoring also has more value when it is done on the same group of cows at multiple times during the production year. If Herd B was scored at calving and had been previously scored at weaning and had an essentially normal distribution (similar to Herd A). We need to ask ourselves what happened. Did we change anything? Although these examples are somewhat extreme they illustrate that we have to look beyond the individual body condition scores of cows at one point during the production year to get the most out of body condition scoring.

A quick reference guide to body condition scoring may be accessed and downloaded at

<https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3230.pdf>.

For more information on body condition scoring contact Justin Waggoner at jwaggon@ksu.edu.

PRESCRIBE BURNING OF SERICEA LESPEDEZA

The dreaded sericea lespeza has been a thorn in the rancher's side for a very long time. Luckily, Dr. KC Olson at Kansas State University has been doing extensive research on various prescribed burning scenarios to help alleviate sericea. Dr. Olson's data has been a hot topic as of late, and he has done a great job at keeping extension and the producers informed of the results from this research. For an update on where the data stands with Dr. Olson, then please read on.

The objective of the study was to evaluate the effects of four consecutive years of prescribed fire applied to native tall-grass range in either April, August, or September on forage biomass production, soil cover, and basal plant cover. Nine fire management units were burned at one of three prescribed times: early spring (April 1), mid-summer (August 1), or late summer (September 1).

The most recent results found that burning during the summer for four consecutive years resulted in excellent control of sericea lespedeza, Baldwin's ironweed, western ragweed, and woody stemmed plants. Therefore, not only did this summer burning assist with the control of sericea, but it also had other benefits to rid your pasture of invasive species. In addition, wildflower specie prevalence increased in areas treated with prescribed fires during the summer compared with the adjacent areas treated during the spring burn.

This data can make some scratch their heads and want to know more additional information. To see the complete research report go to www.asi.ksu.edu/cattlemensday. You can also contact Dr. KC Olson 785-532-1254, kcolson@ksu.edu or Bob Weaver 785-532-1460, bweaver@ksu.edu.

"SPRING-ING" UP WINTER WHEAT

Many farmers are noticing their wheat looks to be in a state of despair. With the lack of precipitation throughout the winter, rainfall delaying harvest last fall and thus delaying wheat drilling; our wheat is really suffering and much of it has a lot of catching up to do.

If there are large areas of the field with winterkill, but other areas are fine, it would be best to avoid applying topdress fertilizer to the bare areas where the wheat has died. If fields are completely dead, it might be possible to plant-back restrictions from any residual herbicides that have been applied to the wheat. Many of the commonly used sulfonylurea herbicides, including Ally, Ally Extra, Finesse, Glean, Amber, Peak, Rave, Maverick, Olympus, and PowerFlex are very persistent and have fairly long crop rotation guidelines.

If sulfonylurea herbicides are used on wheat and farmers plan on following with double-crop soybeans or fill in bare areas with soybeans; it is imperative to use STS soybeans. After the STS soybeans, another option would be the planting of grain sorghum, sudangrass, or forage sorghum all of which tend to have adequate levels of resistance to sulfonylurea products following STS soybeans. One major exception to this guidelines is sorghum and Maverick herbicide. Sorghum is extremely susceptible to Maverick and should not be planted for at least 22 months after application. Corn, sunflowers, canola, and alfalfa tend to be the most susceptible crops to the sulfonylurea herbicides and have rotation guidelines of 12 months or longer.

Most other commonly used wheat herbicides in Kansas have very short crop rotation restrictions. In fields where herbicide carryover is a concern, it would be best to wait until later in the spring before planting to allow as much time as possible for herbicide dissipation. Tilling the soil to try to "dilute" the herbicide residue likely will not have a great benefit and could offset the benefits of not tilling the soil.

Always refer to the specific herbicide label regarding crop rotation guidelines and restrictions. Guidelines for crop rotation are often complicated by soil pH and geography.

SULFUR DEFICIENCY IN WINTER WHEAT

Over 10+ years ago, soil sulfur deficiency was typically only in higher yielding crops. Today, with ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel/stricter emission laws and continued crop removal, there are an increasing number of instances of sulfur deficiency that are being reported across Kansas. Moreover, sulfur deficiencies seem to be more evident in no-till situations, this likely results from cooler soil temperatures resulting in decreased sulfur mineralization (essentially making sulfur in a form readily available to crops). Wheat shows sulfur deficiency especially during rapid growth in the spring. Oftentimes, sulfur deficiency and nitrogen deficiency look very similar, both exhibit symptomology of pale and chlorotic (yellowed) leaves. The primary difference between sulfur deficiency and nitrogen deficiency, is that unlike nitrogen deficiency, sulfur deficiency often appears on the newest leaves and foliage first, whereas nitrogen deficiency appears on the older leaves. Additionally, sulfur deficiency is often evident on hilltops and sideslopes where erosion has occurred.

To combat a sulfur deficiency problem, a sulfur fertilizer should be considered. The type of sulfur that is most often needed (and plant available) is in the sulfate form. According to Dr. Dorivar Ruiz Diaz, Extension Nutrient Management Specialist, there are several types and forms of sulfur fertilizers that can be used.

Dry Forms of Sulfur Fertilizers available are:

- **Elemental S** (typically 90-95 percent S) is a dry material marketed by several manufacturers. Before it becomes available for plant uptake, elemental S must first be oxidized by soil microorganisms to sulfate-S and this can be a slow process when surface-applied. As a result, this material is well suited for pre-plant applications only. Elemental S is not suited for corrective applications to S-deficient wheat in the spring.
- **Ammonium sulfate**, (21-0-0-24S) is a dry material that is a good source of both N and available S. It has high acid-forming potential, however, and soil pH should be monitored. Ammonium sulfate is a good source to consider for both pre-plant and topdressing to correct existing sulfur deficiencies.
- **Gypsum** (analysis varies) is calcium sulfate, and is commonly available in a hydrated form containing 18.6 percent S. This material is commonly available in a granulated form that can be blended with other materials. Since it is a sulfate source, it would be immediately available, and is another good source for spring topdressing.
- **New N-P-S products**, such as Microessentials, 40-Rock, and others, are ammonium phosphate materials formulated with sulfur, and in some cases micronutrients such as zinc. In most of these products the sulfur is present as a combination of elemental-S and sulfate-S.

Liquid sources of Sulfur Fertilizers available are:

- **Ammonium thiosulfate**, (12-0-0-26S) is the most popular S-containing product used in the fluid fertilizer industry, as it is compatible with N solutions and other complete liquid products.
- **Potassium thiosulfate**, (0-0-25-17S) is a clear liquid product that can be mixed with other liquid fertilizers.

Many of these sulfur fertilizers can be applied in combination with nitrogen fertilizers on wheat in the spring. The main limiting factor will be whether or not the sulfur will benefit the current wheat crop this growing season.

CONTROLLING GRASSY SANDBUR

Have you ever walked through your yard to discover your shoes and pants covered in stickers? Well your yard probably has grassy sandbur plants. Grassy sandbur is the “sticker” plant that looks like a grass. It will often invade thin lawns, especially in dry years. Therefore, the best control of this weed is a thick, healthy lawn. However, if your lawn is thin this spring and grassy sandbur was a problem last year, you can use a preemergence herbicide before the sandbur comes up, but not all preemergence herbicides are effective. The three products that can help minimize grassy sandbur are Oryzalin, Pendimethalin, and Prodiamine.

Oryzalin is sold under the trade names of Surflan and Weed Impede. It can be used on all warm-season grasses as well as tall fescue. It should not be used on cool-season grasses other than tall fescue. Apply Oryzalin about April 15 when redbud trees approach full bloom.

Pendimethalin is sold commercially as Pendulum as well as several other names. On the homeowner side, it is sold as Scotts Halts. Pendimethalin is best applied as a split application with the first half applied about April 15 and the second about June 1 or make the first application when redbud trees approach full bloom and the second six weeks later.

Prodiamine is sold under the commercial name of Barricade. It is also the active ingredient in a number of homeowner products. It can be used on all of our common lawn grasses. Apply about April 15 or when redbud trees approach full bloom. Only one application is needed per year.

None of the “weed preventers” will give complete control but each should help. Quinclorac (Drive) can provide some post emergence control especially if the sandbur is in the seedling stage. Quinclorac is also found in a number of combination products that control both broadleaf weeds and crabgrass such as one of the following. Ortho Weed-B-Gon Maz + Crabgrass Control, Bayer All-in-One Lawn Weed and Crabgrass Killer, Monterey Crab-E-Rad Plus, Fertilome Weed Out with Q, Trimec Crabgrass Plus Lawn Weed Killer, Bonide Weed Beater Plus Crabgrass & Broadleaf Weed Killer, Spectracide Weed Stop for Lawns Plus Crabgrass Killer. Again, the best control for grassy sandburs is a healthy, thick lawn. For more information, contact Kelsey Hatesohl in the Washington office, 785-325-2121 or khatesohl@ksu.edu.

PROPER TIMING FOR CRABGRASS PREVENTERS

As the weather starts to warm up, it is time to think about preparing your lawn for the summer months. Did you have a problem with crabgrass last year? If so, it's time to put down a crabgrass preventer. Crabgrass preventer is another name for preemergence herbicides that prevent crabgrass seeds from developing into mature plants. Preemergence herbicides do not kill the weed seed. However, they do kill the young plant after it germinates. Therefore, they do not prevent germination but prevent the plant from emerging. Crabgrass preventers are just that-preventers. With a few exceptions, they have no effect on existing crabgrass plants. Therefore, preventers must be applied before germination.

Additionally, preventers do not last forever once they are applied. Microorganisms and natural processes begin to gradually break down the herbicide soon after it is applied. If some products are applied too early, they may have lost their strength by the time they are needed. Most crabgrass preventers are ineffective after about 60 days, but there is considerable variation among products.

For most of Kansas, crabgrass typically begins to germinate around May 1 or a little later depending on the spring weather patterns. April 15 is normally a good target date for applying preventer because it gives active ingredients time to disperse in the soil before crabgrass germination starts. An even better way to tell when it's time to apply your preventer is with the bloom of ornamental plants. The Eastern Redbud tree is a good choice for this purpose. When the trees in your area approach full bloom, apply crabgrass preventer. Depending on what chemical you decide to put down you may have to do a follow-up application. Products that do require a follow-up application about 8 weeks later include Pendimethalin (Scotts Halts) and Team (Hi-Yield Crabgrass Control). If using Dimension or Barricade, a follow-up is not needed.

Dimension and Barricade are the only two products that give season-long control of crabgrass from a single application. In fact, they can be applied much earlier than April 15 and still have sufficient residual strength to last the season. Barricade may be fall-applied for crabgrass control the next season.

Dimension can be applied as early as March 1. Because of the added flexibility in timing, these products are favorites of lawn care companies who have many customers to service in the spring. Though Dimension is usually not applied as early as Barricade, it is the best choice if it must be applied later than recommended. It is the exception to the rule that preemergence herbicides do not kill existing weeds. Dimension can kill crabgrass as long as it is young (two-to-three-leaf stage). Dimension is also the best choice if treating a lawn that was planted late last fall. Normally a preemergence herbicide is not recommended unless the lawn has been mowed two to four times, but Dimension is kind to young tall fescue, perennial ryegrass, and Kentucky bluegrass seedlings. However, read the label of the specific product you wish to use to ensure you are applying it correctly.

Note that products containing Dimension and Barricade may use the common name rather than the trade name. The common chemical name for Dimension is dithiopyr and for Barricade is prodiamine. Remember, when using any herbicide, read the label and follow instructions carefully. It is recommended to apply crabgrass preventers before fertilizer so that the grass isn't encouraged to put on too much growth too early. If you have any questions feel free to stop by or contact me in the in the Washington office, 785-325-2121 or khatesohl@ksu.edu.

PLANTING TOMATOES TOO EARLY

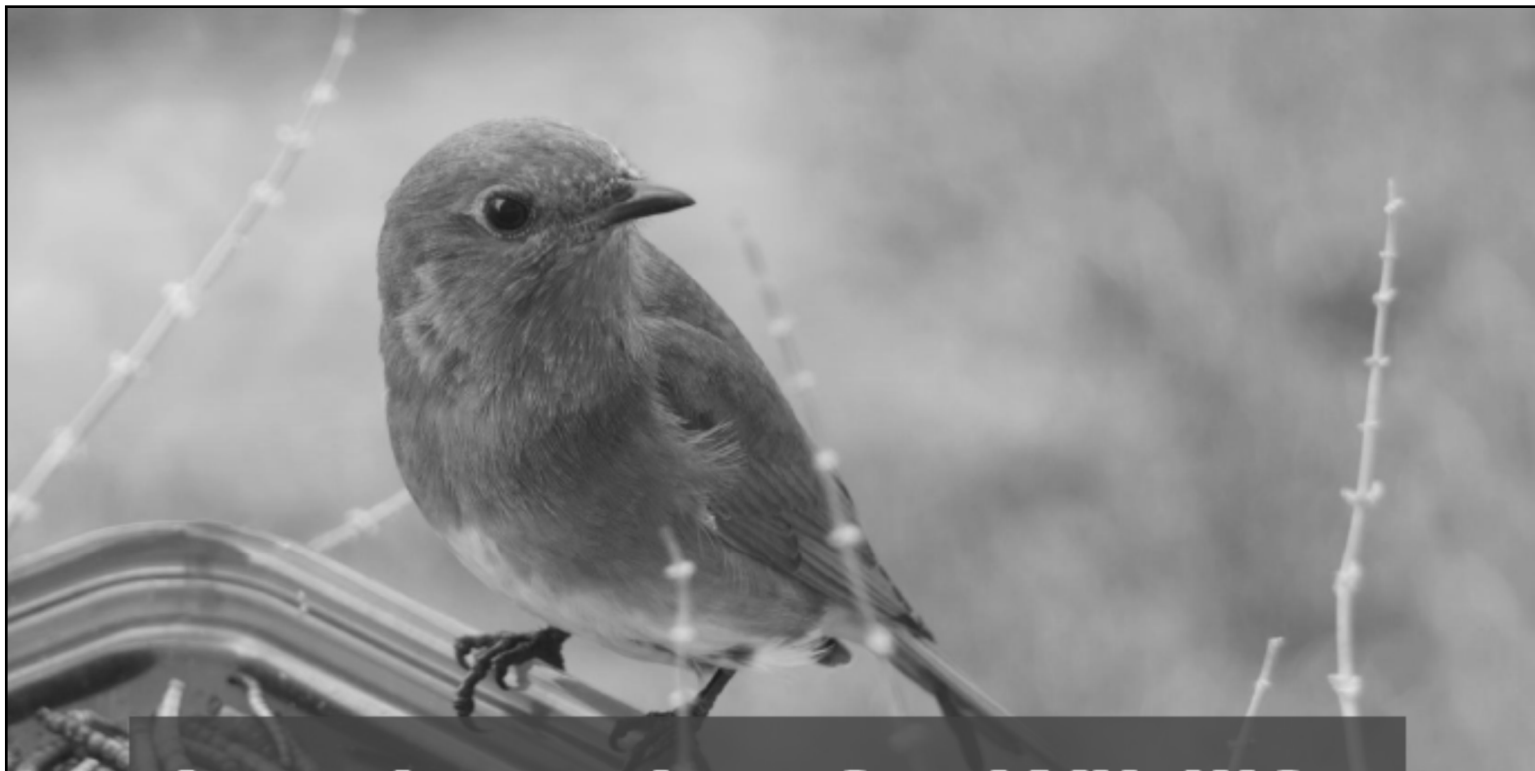
Spring might feel like it's here, but when planting your garden you need to be sure the soil has warmed up enough to plant. Gardeners often try to get a jump on the season by planting tomatoes as early as possible. This can be successful at times, but precautions should be taken, especially with the up and down temperatures we have been having this year.

The first precaution is checking to make sure the soil is at an adequate temperature. Tomato roots do not do well until soil temperatures reach a consistent 55°F. Use a soil thermometer to check the temperature at 2 inches deep during the late morning to get a good average temperature for the day. This should be done for three or four days to get an average temperature. To warm your soil up quicker try putting down black plastic mulch. This should warm up your soil enough for you to get that jump on planting your tomatoes.

The second precaution that should be taken is to harden off plants that you are transplanting into your garden. Plants moved directly from a warm, moist greenhouse to the more exposed and cooler conditions outside may undergo transplant shock. Transplant shock causes plants to stop growing until they are acclimated to the weather. Plants can be acclimated to outside conditions by placing them outdoors in a location protected from wind and full sunlight for a few days before transplanting. The best conditions for transplanting is an overcast, windless day; well as close to a windless day as we can get in Kansas.

The third precaution that should be taken is to protect your tomatoes from frost. Tomatoes cannot tolerate frost. Watch the weather and cover the plants if frost is predicted. A floating row cover or light sheets can be used for protection. A floating row cover can be left on the plants for two to three weeks to increase the rate of growth and establishment of your tomato plants.

Here are a few other tips for getting your tomato plants off to a fast start. Use smaller stockier plants rather than tall spindly ones. The smaller plants tend to form roots and become established faster than the tall overgrown plants. Don't mulch your plants as soon as you plant them; give them time to start growing well, then mulch. By mulching too early, it will prevent the soil from warming up, and slowing down the growth of the tomato plants. I hope these tips will help you have a successful tomato crop.



Landscaping for Wildlife

April 15th 2018
3:00PM

**Commercial Building on
Cloud County
Fairgrounds**

**Industrial Road
Concordia, KS 66901**

**Featured Speaker:
Chuck Otte**

Chuck is an Extension Agent in Geary County. The topic covered will be how to landscape in order to attract wildlife. Come enjoy an afternoon of learning!

**RSVP to Washington Office
785-325-2121 by April 11th**

K-STATE
Research and Extension

Master Gardener



K-STATE
Research and Extension

River Valley
District

Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact John Forshee, 785-632-5335
Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service
K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Top 10 Insects in Your Garden

May 10th 2018

7:00pm

Commercial Building on
Cloud County Fairgrounds
Industrial Road
Concordia, KS 66901



What's my bug?

Come learn how to identify and manage the insects in your garden.

Featured Speaker:

Dr. Raymond A. Cloyd

State Extension Leader for
Entomology, Professor and
Extension Specialist in
Horticultural Entomology/Plant
Protection.

New and experienced gardeners are welcome, free to participate but please **RSVP** to Post Rock Extension, 785-735-3597 by **May 1st**

For more information contact Horticulture Agents: Cassie Homan at choman@ksu.edu or Kelsey Hatesohl at khatesohl@ksu.edu

K-STATE
Research and Extension

Post Rock
District

K-STATE
Research and Extension

River Valley
District

Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact Cassie Homan, 785-738-3597.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service
K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

ANDERSONS & DIEDERICHS KS MASTER FARMERS/HOMEMAKERS

Congratulations to Robert and Charlotte Anderson from Jamestown and to Mark and Evelyn Diederich from Greenleaf for being selected to the Kansas Master Farmer and Master Farm Homemaker Class of 2017 as nominees from the River Valley Extension District. The couples received their awards at the annual banquet on March 9 in Manhattan and were honored by the River Valley Extension District at the Annual Appreciation Dinner on March 19. Their stories and video's are available on the River Valley District website at: <http://www.rivervalley.k-state.edu/>



Robert and Charlotte Anderson and family.



Mark and Evelyn Diederich and family.

RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT APPRECIATION AWARDS

Each year the River Valley Districts holds an Appreciation Dinner to say thanks to our board members, legislators, commissioners, county clerks, and county treasurers. In addition, individuals or businesses that have provided outstanding service are presented with an appreciation award.

Congratulations and thanks to our 2018 honorees:

Rich Schintler - provides outstanding service to our programs by serving as our male sponsor on a number of 4-H events and being Master Gardener and fair superintendent.

Trooper Ben Gardner - has provided educational programming in defensive driving and in tractor and machinery safety on the road for the Hazardous Occupations Training.

Rob Kasl - was the driving force behind our Belleville First Impressions and the development of our Belleville Community PRIDE program.

WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

There are a variety of studies that have been done looking at the transfer of wealth that will happen in this country as the baby-boomer generation passes between now and the year 2060. The numbers are staggering and for rural areas across the nation this transfer could become financially devastating as this wealth moves from where it was made to where the next generations live in large cities. But what if we could capture and retain a part of that wealth in rural communities without a large effect on the inheritance of heirs? It can be done! Those of us in the baby-boomer generation must build it into our estate plan and consider leaving just a small portion to charity through our local community foundation.

Many think you have to be wealthy in order to leave an endowed gift. That is simply not the case. Working with our local community foundations we can leave small gifts that can have lasting benefits. Consider the following example. A person owns a house worth \$120,000, has \$60,000 remaining in a retirement, and has \$20,000 in other assets such as cars and antiques for a total modest estate value of \$200,000. This person chose to leave 5%, or \$10,000, to a charity endowment through the community foundation. We assume no additional contributions, a 7% return on the investment, a 1% administrative fee, and a 5% payout. At the end of 15 years, this \$10,000 endowed donation could have paid out a total of \$8,234 in grants or scholarships and now have a \$12,787 balance in the fund.

This donor, of very modest wealth, has done a very nice thing for the community. If we had 200 of these such modest donors then the grants and/or scholarships to the community would be just under \$110,000 each year. If a person or a business made a \$110,000 donation in the community, that would make the headlines of the newspapers as a big deal! Just think what we could do if we had an additional \$110,000 each year to do improvements in our community!

We have all heard the old saying that it takes an entire village to raise a child. Betsy Wearing of the Hansen Foundation put it so very well in a workshop I attended the other day when she said; "Consider leaving 95% to your kids and 5% to the community that helped raise them." Consider being a small part of a big deal and contact your attorney, financial planner, or local community foundation and get started today giving to the community, church, or charity that you love so much.

Community Foundation for Cloud County: 785-243-1008
<http://communityfoundationforcloudcounty.org/>

Republic County Community Foundation: 785-527-5631
<http://republiccountycf.org/>

Washington County Community Foundation: 785-325-2202
<http://www.washingtoncountycf.org/>

Clay Center Comm. Improvement Foundation: 785-632-2174
<https://www.claycentercif.org/index.cfm>

River Valley Extension DistrictWashington Office
214 C. Street, Courthouse
Washington, KS 66968-1928**NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
WASHINGTON, KS
PERMIT NO. 3****Address Service Requested****RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT****“2018 UP-COMING MEETINGS & EVENTS”**

DATE	TIME	PROGRAM	LOCATION
Mar.18-May 12		Walk Kansas	Statewide Program
Apr. 10	10am	Move More, Sit Less	Concordia Extension Office
Apr. 10	2pm	Move More, Sit Less	Belleville Extension Office
Apr. 11	10am	Move More, Sit Less	Washington Extension Office
Apr. 11	2pm	Move More, Sit Less	Clay Center Extension Office
April 15	3pm	Landscaping for Wildlife	Concordia-Commercial Building on Fairgrounds
May 10	7pm	Top 10 Insects in Your Garden	Concordia-Commercial Building on Fairgrounds
May 12	8:30-4:30pm	Hazardous Occupations Training	Concordia-CTI meeting room
June 19-22		Kansas Range Youth Camp	Murdock, KS-Camp Mennoscah, Kingman County