

# River Valley District

K-STATE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION NEWS

[rivervalley.ksu.edu](http://rivervalley.ksu.edu)

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## **RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT COVID-19 UPDATE**

K-State Research and Extension remains under the no face-to-face educational events until July 4, 2020 per our K-State COVID-19 Protocols. However, we will begin migrating back to our offices from remote work on June 1. The health and well-being of our clientele and staff are of utmost importance to us, so until we reach Phase 4 of the State reopening plan, our doors will remain closed to walk-in traffic and we will work with clientele by appointment only. Please contact us by phone or email as we continue to serve your needs.

## **FILLING UP YOUR FREEZER**

For the past several weeks, the meat animal industry has been facing many challenges. A big issue that has trickled down to the consumer, is the slowing of packing plants. This slowdown is causing shortages of meat in the market and increasing the price on the shelves. Also, it creates a backup of finished animals that are ready to be harvested.

This situation has led to small-town packing plants becoming inundated with inquires. This is certainly not going to solve the issue with the backup of large feeding operations. However, I want to provide some information to people who want to fill up their freezer as I have received several calls from cattle producers and consumers about getting a half or quarter of beef.

A question that some people may be wondering and one that I have received recently is, "How much meat do I get when I buy a half-beef or a quarter-beef?" Obviously, this requires a large freezer. A typical kitchen freezer is not going to be nearly big enough. To breakdown how much beef is in a half beef for example, we first need to know how much the animal weighs. We know that the average hanging hot carcass is about 63% of the live weight. This is also known as the dressing percentage. An average hot carcass weight would be about 800 pounds (this can vary widely from 600 to 1100). However, not all 800 pounds of that hanging weight will end up on your plate. First thing we must consider is about a 3% shrink from moisture loss and cutting on the carcass. That leaves about a 776-pounds-carcass. Typically, we would see about 168 pounds (21%) of that 776-pound carcass as inedible product such as bone and excess fat. Which would leave us with roughly 600 pounds of steaks, roasts, ground beef, and stew meat.

One resource that is available to consumers buying meat is on our River Valley Extension District web page, [www.rivervalley.ksu.edu](http://www.rivervalley.ksu.edu). On our website under the Livestock page and Food, Nutrition, and Health page we have three documents from Kansas State Meat Science. These three documents show you what your options are for getting your beef, pig, or lamb cut up and how many pounds of each cut you can expect.

Another question to add to that is, "How much money can I save by buying a half or quarter-beef?" This question is difficult to answer. The easy part to answer is how much are you going to be paying for your half-beef. The hard part is figuring out an estimated retail value of the carcass. In other words, how much would it cost you to go buy those same cuts of beef from the shelf at your local grocery store. First, we have to breakdown how much each of those cuts would cost us at a retail store. Then we must know how many pounds of each of those cut there will be. I have created a spread sheet that is available at the River Valley Extension District web page. It allows you to enter the live or carcass weight of your beef and will give you an estimate of how much of each cut you should receive in return. You can also enter the retail price of each cut. I have put in some prices, but they may not reflect what you would pay. Prices change frequently on meat especially if a store has had something on the shelf for a while, they will put it on sale. Check out all of these on the River Valley Extension District web page if you are considering filling up your freezer. Contact River Valley Extension District Livestock Agent, Brett Melton for questions at 785-243-8185.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

## EVALUATING RULES OF THUMB FOR GRAZING MANAGEMENT-PART 3

Over the years, I've heard rangeland managers develop rules of thumb, or short phrases, to try to help them simplify decisions that need to be made to manage their pastures. Some of these rules of thumb have merit and scientific or economic data to support the rules of thumb; however, some rules of thumb may be unfounded and lack informational support. In previous River Valley Newsletters, I listed some common rules of thumb, along with an explanation of whether or not the rule of thumb has any merit or basis of support. You can go back and read Rules of Thumb 1-4 in the January newsletter, and Rules of Thumb 5-8 in the March newsletter. This month, another four Rules of Thumb are listed, and a Thumbs Up means it's a rule of thumb with merit, and a Thumbs Down indicates the rule of thumb lacks support and has room for improvement. A Thumbs Up and a Thumbs Down means that arguments may be made for and against the rule of thumb.

9. Every inch of growth is equal to 150 lb/acre. – Thumbs Up and Thumbs Down.

It's a good practice to estimate how many pounds of forage are still available in a currently grazed pasture or a pasture waiting to be grazed. Knowing the height of the forage helps to estimate the quantity available. The rule that each inch of growth is equal to 150 lb forage /acre is a satisfactory rule to help calculate forage yield by measuring grass height in an average native grass stand in the middle of the state. That rule will change depending on the location of the pasture and the density of the grass stand. In eastern Kansas rangelands, more robust tallgrass species and thick, high density stands of grass could result in 250 lb forage/acre for every inch of growth. In average density western Kansas shortgrass, the value could decline to 60-70 lb forage/acre for every inch of growth. So, the forage quantity produced for every inch of growth depends on the dominant grass species present and the density of the grass stand. Some general estimates of forage production per inch of growth for different locations and densities of grass stands throughout the state are listed in Table 1.

**Table 1. General guidelines for forage yield per inch of forage growth for eastern Kansas tallgrass to western Kansas shortgrass rangelands.**

Rangeland Type	Density lb/acre/inch, dry matter basis		
	Low	Medium	High
Tallgrass	120-160	160-230	230-300
Mixed-grass	70-120	120-160	160-230
Shortgrass	30-40	40-80	80-120

Pasture yield estimates derived by measuring forage height and multiplying by these yield per inch of growth factors may not be as exact as clipping and weighing samples, but measuring height and using these estimates will allow for many more height samples to be collected at many more locations in the same amount of time as clipping. Estimating forage yield is one of the first steps necessary in calculating proper stocking rates to balance forage produced with forage removed through grazing.

10. Don't graze the same place at the same time every year. – Thumbs Up.

This rule generally refers to pastures with mixed vegetation, both cool-season and warm-season grass species. Grazing in the same place at the same time every year can result in shifting the plants present in the pasture to mostly cool-season or mostly warm-season species. Composition will shift to species that grow best in the period of the growing season opposite of the period when the pasture is regularly grazed. Grazing reduces the leaf area and vigor of the species being actively defoliated, so species that are not yet growing well or grow best during a different time period will avoid defoliation and will have more growth and vigor during the ungrazed period. For example, in a mixed grass pasture in central Kansas or shortgrass pasture of western Kansas with both common native cool-season and warm-season grasses, repeatedly deferring grazing until the end of June or early July year after year will increase the cool-season grass composition over time and reduce warm-season grasses. Likewise, concentrated grazing in April and May every year will end up decreasing desirable western wheatgrass in that pasture. However, the same repeated early-season grazing concept could help promote pasture improvement in eastern Kansas warm-season grass pasture that has been invaded over the years by smooth brome, tall fescue, or Kentucky bluegrass. Concentrated early grazing could help to shift composition toward more warm-season species and reduce the cover of invading cool-season grasses.

11. It's hard to kill a dead man. – Thumbs up.

Most all of the previous Rules of Thumb address grass management during the growing season, but this Rule of Thumb pertains to grass management during the winter when most all of the forage produced during the year has gone dormant. During the late fall and winter, most perennial warm-season grasses have gone through their annual growth cycle of producing abundant leaves, stem growth to support seed heads, seed head development, and seed ripening. Warm-season grasses that had growing points removed during the growing season and produced leafy vegetative regrowth have also stopped production and gone dormant because of freezing temperatures. By this time, carbohydrates and minerals needed for winter survival and re-emergence in the spring have been translocated from the leaves and upper stems down to the roots, rhizomes, crowns, and lower stem bases. Because photosynthesis is done for the season and aboveground vegetation is dead and dry, forage can be removed to a greater extent than during the growing season. It's hard to injure or kill the aboveground vegetation through

grazing because it's already dead. During the growing season, the basic goal is to take half and leave half, where half of the forage produced during the season remains standing and half disappears through grazing, trampling, senescence, wildlife feeding, and insect feeding. Animal intake through grazing generally removes 25% of the total forage produced. For pastures that are stockpiled and not grazed during the growing season, this intake value could be increased up to 35% removal of the total forage produced when grazed in the winter because the top growth is dead and isn't needed for photosynthesis. Even though forage allocated for intake can be increased in the winter, standing residual forage is still important and necessary to maintain soil cover for preventing erosion, promoting water infiltration, and providing insulation for plant crowns.

12. Take half and leave half. – Thumbs Up.

Some folks may recognize this as an earlier Rule of Thumb, and they're right. This Rule of Thumb is important enough that it needs to be repeated, because management that removes half of the forage produced in a growing season and leaves half of the forage produced standing during the growing season for photosynthesis is on track to provide sustainable forage and animal production. Go back to the January Beef Tips to read the entire summary of the 'take half and leave half' Rule of Thumb.

The goal of this 'Rules of Thumb' series was to help shed some light on simplified common strategies and philosophies of grazing management. Digging deeper into these 'Rules of Thumb' showed that some rules are better than others, and I hope will motivate you to evaluate your own 'Rules'.

*Written by Keith Harmony, Range Scientist, Hays*

**Rural Stress Resources**

[www.kansasagstress.org](http://www.kansasagstress.org)

**Kansas Suicide Prevention Line  
1-785-841-2345**

**Crisis Text Line 24/7 Support  
Text "HOME" to 741741**

**Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services  
1-800-321-FARM (3276)**

**Sign Up For RVD- Emails**

The River Valley Extension District has started a new service available to our constituents – email subscriptions! You can sign up to receive emails regarding timely resources, upcoming programs, etc. in the content areas that interest you. If you would like to sign up, you can do so here:

<https://river-valley-extension.mailchimpsites.com/>

**CONTROL OPTIONS FOR BUCKBRUSH,  
ROUGHLEAF DOGWOOD, AND  
SMOOTH SUMAC**

Three common brush species native to Kansas are buckbrush (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*), roughleaf dogwood (*Cornus drummondii*), and smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*).

Buckbrush is generally 2-3 feet tall and occurs on prairies and woodlands. Patches of buckbrush provide cover for birds and mammals. Above-ground runners help buckbrush spread around forming clumps.

Roughleaf dogwood is a shrub that can reach 15 feet in height. Flat-topped clusters of white flowers usually appear in late May to early June. Roughleaf dogwood can be found in fence rows, edge of woods, along streams, and open prairies. It provides cover for wildlife and nesting birds.

Smooth sumac will grow to a height of 5-7 feet and produces an open milo-like head in early June. It grows on rocky soils in pastures and along fence rows. Some birds will eat the seed and the plants provide cover for birds and mammals.

All three shrubs can produce clumps that will shade out and reduce forage production. Cattle generally do not browse on these species, but sheep and goats are more likely to utilize these woody plants.

Top removal of buckbrush after the plants have leafed out and the nonstructural carbohydrates stored in the roots are at a low level can be an effective control. One way to accomplish top removal is with prescribed burning. Fire can be an effective control technique if burning is done in the late spring. It may take 2 or 3 years of consecutive burning to reduce buckbrush stands. If you missed the opportunity to burn this year or are located in areas where burning wasn't possible, mowing becomes an option. Again, it may take 2 or 3 years of consecutive mowing at the proper time (generally early to mid-May) to reduce stands.

Herbicides can also be used to control buckbrush. The best time to spray occurs just as the leaves are starting to change from a light to dark green color. This timing corresponds with the low point in the nonstructural carbohydrate cycle. A number of herbicides can be used to spray buckbrush, but 2,4-D low-volatile ester formulations at 1.5 to 2 lbs/acre are usually quite effective. Other herbicides used for buckbrush control include Grazon P+D (picloram + 2,4-D) at 2-3 pint/acre and Chaparral (aminopyralid + metsulfuron). Chaparral can be used alone at 2 to 3 oz/acre for buckbrush control, but I prefer adding 2 pint/acre 2,4-D to 2 oz/acre Chaparral. Caution should be used if treating cool-season grasses with Chaparral. Grazon P+D is a restricted use pesticide. Always read the label when considering the use of herbicides.

Roughleaf dogwood is rarely grazed and invades grassland in the absence of prescribed burning. Pastures that are frequently burned usually do not have a roughleaf dogwood problem. Once established, roughleaf dogwood is difficult to remove with fire alone as the plant usually leafs out after the burning season. Long-term late spring burning may gradually reduce stands of roughleaf dogwood.

The optimum time to spray roughleaf dogwood is between the flower bud state and early seed production. A number of foliar-applied herbicides including triclopyr (Remedy Ultra),

## 2020 KANSAS 4-H WHEAT EXPO

The Kansas 4-H State Wheat Expo is a wheat fun day, showcasing all things wheat! There will be eight divisions open to youth members with cash prizes and ribbons awarded.

The wheat divisions include:

1. 1 pound bin run for crops member
2. 1 pound bin run for "adopt-a-producer"
3. 1 quart jar sample of cleaned wheat
4. three standard yeast rolls
5. three standard sized cookies
6. three standard muffins
7. photography contest of wheat-related photos
8. wheat educational posters or display boards

Participants may pick division 1 or division 2, but not both. All wheat samples must be postmarked to KSU by July 20, so testing can be completed.

There will be two tours offered. Plots have not been picked, but are usually educational Ag places nearby.

When: August 6th, 2020

Where: Sedgewick County Extension Office, 7001 W. 21st St. N, Wichita, KS 67205.

It is open to all 4-H family members, 4-H leaders and Extension staff.

For more information log on to: <https://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/conferences-events/whet/index.html> or call Rebecca at 785-243-8185.

## MULCHING TIPS

Now is the time of year when people are thinking about mulching their landscape beds. Mulching is an important gardening practice that offers many benefits to the soil as well as your plants. The most important benefit of mulch is that it helps to conserve moisture and keep the soil cooler during our long, hot summers. Mulch is also great at stopping unwanted weeds in your landscape. A freshly mulched area is the finishing touch, like frosting on a cake. Mulching is pretty easy but there are a few common mistakes that should be avoided.

When mulching around trees the most common mistake is applying mulch too close to the trunk. Prolonged exposure of the trunk to the moist mulch results in decay of the bark layer, leading to poor growth or death. When properly applied mulch should start a few inches away from the trunk and extend at least three feet out from the base. The depth of the mulch layer should be about three inches and no more than four inches. When mulching trees, keep in mind the mulch pile should look like a doughnut, not a volcano.

When mulching around shrubs follow the same depth guidelines as trees. When piling mulch around the base of the

dicamba (Banvel), and picloram (Tordon 22K) used alone or in combination with 2,4-D will defoliate roughleaf dogwood, but actual mortality is usually less than 25%. Roughleaf dogwood can be difficult to control. High-volume treatments providing greater than 50% mortality include 0.5-1% Pasture-Gard HL (triclopyr + fluroxypyr), 1% Surmount (picloram + fluroxypyr), and 1% Grazon P+D + 0.5% Remedy Ultra (picloram + 2,4-D + triclopyr). All these herbicides are applied with water. Adding a 0.25 to 0.5% v/v non-ionic surfactant may enhance control. Aerial applications should be applied in a minimum 3 gallons per acre total spray solution to insure adequate coverage.

A single application of any herbicide does not completely eliminate roughleaf dogwood, but may open up the stand enough to carry a fire. In subsequent years, a combination of prescribed burning in the late spring followed by a herbicide application 4-6 weeks post burning should provide good control.

Late-spring burning will keep smooth sumac shorter in stature, but generally increases stem density. The optimum time to spray smooth sumac is between the flower bud stage and early seed production. Smooth sumac is among the easiest woody plants to control with herbicides if applied at the proper time. Smooth sumac is controlled with 2-3 pint/acre 2,4-D with ground or aerial application.

Soil-applied materials such as Spike 20P (tebuthiuron) and Pronone Power Pellets (hexazinone) can provide control of roughleaf dogwood and smooth sumac. Spike 20P should be applied during the dormant season at 0.75 ounces product per 100 square feet. This is equivalent to 20 pounds of product per acre. Pronone Power Pellets should be applied when the soil is moist and rainfall is expected within 2 weeks of application. For plants 3-6 feet tall apply 2-4 pellets at the base of the plant. Expect to see grass damage following use of Pronone Power Pellets. Spike 20P can also be used to control buckbrush.

These dry soil-applied products may be useful in areas where spray drift may cause considerable non-target damage.

**Walt Fick, Rangeland Management Specialist**  
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## 2020 KANSAS 4-H AND FFA WHEAT VARIETY PLOT ENROLLMENT OPEN

As wheat harvest approaches it is time to be considering to enroll for the 2020 Kansas 4-H and FFA Wheat Variety Plot program. The program begins fall of 2020 and goes through September 2021. The enrollment form and program details are currently available at:

<http://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/conferences-events/wheat/wheat-variety-plots/index.html>



Members are asked to contact Rebecca Zach, RVD Crop agent located at the Concordia office at 785-243-8185 or at [zrebecca@ksu.edu](mailto:zrebecca@ksu.edu) by July 12 for more information.

plant, place mulch a few inches away from the base. Shrubs look best in the landscape when large beds or groupings of plants are all mulched together. Remove any grass between the shrubs or other plants and mulch the grouping as a whole. When mulching around flowers and vegetables a three-inch layer is recommended. A finer textured mulch could be used around flowers. Vegetable gardens are best mulched with materials such as straw, leaves, or grass clippings that will break down by the end of the season and can be incorporated into the soil.

When choosing what kind of mulch to use, that is a personal preference. All mulching materials that are organic, except rocks, provide the same basic function. The difference is in the texture, color, lasting power, and of course, cost. Trees and shrubs look good mulched with just about any material. Flower gardens look best against a darker color and finer grade of mulch. No matter what type of mulch you choose, it is important to follow these tips, not only for a beautiful landscape but for healthy plants as well. 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](mailto:khatesohl@ksu.edu).

## SQUASH BUGS

Have you ever had bugs eating your squash and pumpkin plants? If so, you probably have had squash bugs. Squash bugs are the grey, shield-shaped bugs that feed on your plants. If you have had problems with this insect in the past, you know that they are almost impossible to control when mature. This is because squash bugs have a hard body that an insecticide has difficulty penetrating. Thus, spraying when the insects are small is important. We will soon be seeing the nymphs of the first generation. These nymphs will eventually become adults, which will lay eggs that will become the second generation. The second generation is often huge and devastating. Therefore, it is important to control as many squash bugs in the first generation as possible.



Because squash bugs feed by sucking juice from the plant, only insecticides that directly contact the insect will work. General use insecticides such as permethrin (Bug-B-Gon Multi-Purpose Garden Dust, Green Thumb Multipurpose Garden and Pet Dust, Bug-No-More Yard and Garden Insect Spray, Eight Vegetable, Fruit and Flower Concentrate, Garden, Pet and Livestock Insect Control, Lawn & Garden Insect Killer), malathion, and methoxychlor provide control if a direct application is made to young, soft-bodied squash bugs. This means that you MUST spray or dust the underside of the leaves because this is where the insects live.

The easiest way to make sure you can control squash bugs is to scout for them. You will want to scout for them often, so while you are watering or weeding your garden, lift up the leaves of your squash plants and see what you find. If you have any questions feel free to stop by or contact me in the Washington office, 785-325-2121 or [khatesohl@ksu.edu](mailto:khatesohl@ksu.edu).

## DEADHEADING ANNUAL AND PERENNIAL FLOWERS

Are you looking for a way to increase the amount of flowers you get on your plants? Are you tired of the one and done flowers? Have you ever tried deadheading your plants? Some plants will bloom more profusely if the old, spent flowers are removed. This is a process called deadheading.

Annual plants especially, will focus their energy on seed production once they have flowered once instead of on producing more flowers. If you remove old flowers, the energy normally used to produce seeds will be used to produce more flowers.

Perennial flowers can also benefit from deadheading and will increase the length of the blooming season. However, some gardeners enjoy the look of spent flowers of perennials such as sedum or purple coneflower. The seed produced is a good food source for birds.

Deadheading will not help all plants produce another round of flowers. Some plants that don't produce flowers again are 'Autumn Joy' sedum, impatiens, most flowering vines and periwinkle. These plants only produce one round of flowers whether you deadhead them or not. So it's totally up to you as the gardener on whether you like the look of the spent blooms or if you'd rather take them off.

Plants that do increase bloom production in response to deadheading include geraniums, petunias, marigolds, snapdragons, roses, blanket flowers, and zinnias. These are just a few in a long list of annual and perennial flowers that will bloom repeatedly if you deadhead them.

Deadheading is easily accomplished and doesn't take much time to complete. With some plants, pinching the bloom between a thumb and finger will pop off the spent blooms. Others will be a bit tougher and will need pruning shears to remove the blooms. Deadheading can increase the length of the gardening season, but it is up to you the gardener on whether you choose to deadhead your plants. If you have any questions feel free to stop by or contact me in the Washington office, 785-325-2121 or [khatesohl@ksu.edu](mailto:khatesohl@ksu.edu).

## River Valley District County Fairs

<b>Cloud County Fair</b>	<b>July 7-July 11</b>
<b>Clay County Fair</b>	<b>July 14-July 18</b>
<b>Washington Co. Fair</b>	<b>July 21-July 25</b>
<b>NCK Free Fair -</b>	<b>July 28-August 2</b>

The River Valley Extension Staff and the respective Fair Boards are working diligently to plan for county fairs. At this time, we are planning to conduct all four fairs in as normal a fashion as possible with appropriate COVID-19 safety precautions. Given the fluidity of the COVID-19 situation we will continue to adjust plans accordingly to mitigate risk as much as possible. Events prior to July 4 are being judged virtually. As fairs approach check River Valley and Fair websites and social media for updates on entry protocols and spectator participation safety guidelines.

## POULTRY PULLORUM-TYPHOID TESTING CANCELLED

All poultry testing for County Fairs in the River Valley Extension District have been cancelled due to a Nationwide shortage of antigen needed to conduct Pullorum-typhoid testing. Shows will go on as scheduled without the requirement of testing the birds prior to Fairs.

The following message is from Dr. Justin Smith, Health Commissioner with the Kansas Department Of Agriculture, "Although we still consider pullorum-typhoid testing important in maintaining Pullorum-clean poultry within Kansas, pullorum disease is rare. Due to this low risk of spread of pullorum disease, and the fact that the antigen for testing will not be available, KDA is waiving the requirement for pullorum-typhoid testing through the 2020 Fair season.

Please contact Brett Melton at the Concordia Extension Office with additional questions or concerns.

## FORSHEE TO RETIRE FROM K-STATE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION

John Forshee has announced his retirement from K-State Research and Extension effective June 30, 2020.

Forshee graduated from Kansas State University with a BS in Agriculture Education in December of 1982. He was the Agriculture Instructor and FFA Advisor at Miltonvale High School for six years and began his Extension Career in June of 1989 when he was named Agricultural Extension Agent in Rooks County. Forshee provided education in Agriculture, 4-H, and Community Development for over 11 years in Rooks County.

In October of 2000 he took the chance to get closer to home and spent the next nine years in banking in Concordia and Clay Center.

Forshee served as a River Valley District Board member from 2007 until 2009 when he was hired as the Director of the River Valley Extension District. Over the years he has provided supervision to the staff of up to 18 people and has provided education in Community Vitality, 4-H and Youth, Horticulture, and Farm Management.

As an Extension Professional, Forshee belongs to the Kansas Association of County Agricultural Agents, Kansas Association of Community Development Extension Professionals, and Epsilon Sigma Phi. He served as the Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, and President of KACAA. He served as the President of ESP and is currently completing the term as President of the Kansas Joint Council of Extension Professionals. Honors include the Kansas 4-H Clover Award, ESP Horizon Award, ESP Mid-Career Award, and NACAA Achievement Award. He won multiple KACAA and NACAA Communication Awards during his career.

Forshee and his wife Debra plan to move to Washington State to be closer to kids and grandkids. Debra has a BS in Nursing and is a Pre-service Coordinator for naviHealth.

Due to COVID-19 Protocols, no retirement reception will be held. Cards may be sent in care of the River Valley Extension, 322 Grand Avenue, Clay Center, KS 67432.



## USDA CORONAVIRUS FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 19, 2020 – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue has announced details of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), which will provide up to \$16 billion in direct payments to deliver relief to America's farmers and ranchers impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. In addition to this direct support to farmers and ranchers, USDA's [Farmers to Families Food Box](#) program is partnering with regional and local distributors, whose workforces have been significantly impacted by the closure of many restaurants, hotels, and other food service entities, to purchase \$3 billion in fresh produce, dairy, and meat and deliver boxes to Americans in need.

"America's farming community is facing an unprecedented situation as our nation tackles the coronavirus. President Trump has authorized USDA to ensure our patriotic farmers, ranchers, and producers are supported and we are moving quickly to open applications to get payments out the door and into the pockets of farmers," said Secretary Perdue. "These payments will help keep farmers afloat while market demand returns as our nation reopens and recovers. America's farmers are resilient and will get through this challenge just like they always do with faith, hard work, and determination."

Beginning May 26, the USDA, through the Farm Service Agency (FSA), will be accepting applications from producers who have suffered losses.

CFAP provides vital financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities who have suffered a five-percent-or-greater price decline due to COVID-19 and face additional significant marketing costs as a result of lower demand, surplus production, and disruptions to shipping patterns and the orderly marketing of commodities.

Farmers and ranchers will receive direct support, drawn from two possible funding sources. The first source of funding is \$9.5 billion in appropriated funding provided in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stability (CARES) Act to compensate farmers for losses due to price declines that occurred between mid-January 2020 and mid-April 2020. It also provides support for specialty crops for product that had been shipped from the farm between the same time period but subsequently spoiled due to loss of marketing channels. The second funding source uses the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act to compensate producers for \$6.5 billion in losses due to on-going market disruptions.

Producers can apply for assistance beginning on May 26, 2020. Additional information and application forms can be found at [farmers.gov/cfap](https://farmers.gov/cfap). Producers of all eligible commodities will apply through their local FSA office. Documentation to support the producer's application and certification may be requested. FSA has streamlined the signup process to not require an acreage report at the time of application and a USDA farm number may not be immediately needed. Applications will be accepted through August 28, 2020.

See the following USDA Website for the complete news release or contact the local FSA Office for complete details.

[https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/news-releases/2020/usda-announces-details-of-direct-assistance-to-farmers-through-the-coronavirus-food-assistance-program?](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/news-releases/2020/usda-announces-details-of-direct-assistance-to-farmers-through-the-coronavirus-food-assistance-program?utm_campaign=0519cfap&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govd)

[utm\\_campaign=0519cfap&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govd](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/news-releases/2020/usda-announces-details-of-direct-assistance-to-farmers-through-the-coronavirus-food-assistance-program?utm_campaign=0519cfap&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govd)  
delivery

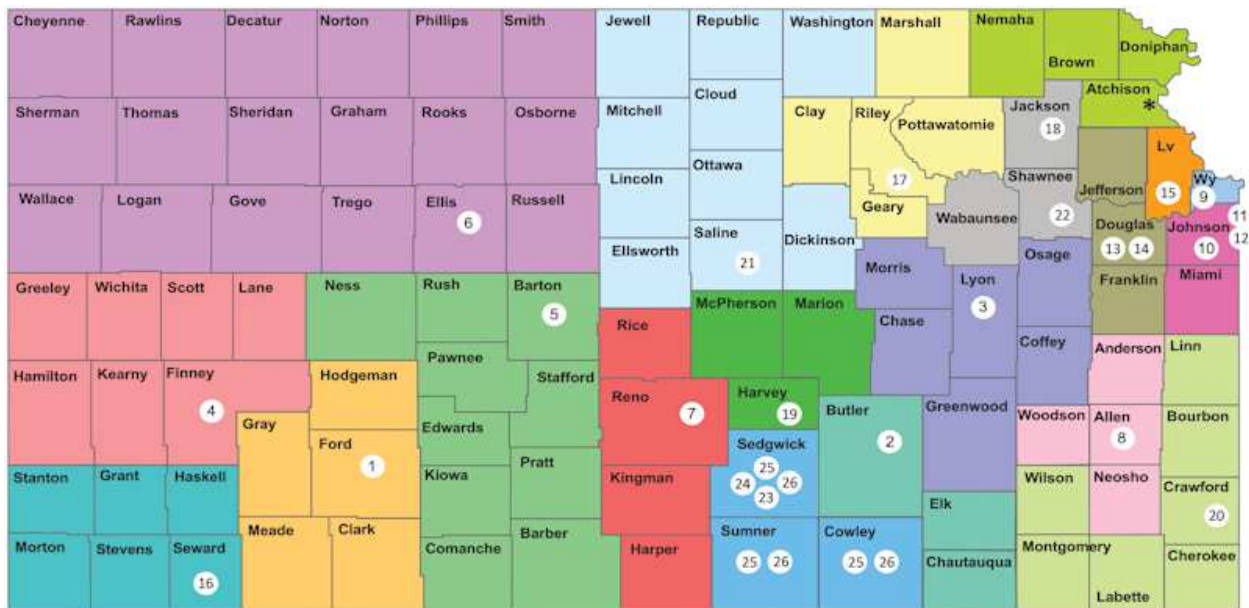
## IN CRISIS-REACH OUT FOR HELP

We know that one of the possible outward manifestations of chronic stress may be lashing out in anger and increase in incidence of domestic abuse. History will tell us that women and children are the most likely to be the victims of domestic abuse, but it can happen to anyone including men and the elderly! If you currently fear for your own safety, the safety of your children, or the safety of someone around you then please do not remain silent. Reach out for help!

### The Kansas Crisis Hotline: 1-888-363-2287

The Kansas Crisis Hotline is a toll-free, 24-hour statewide hotline accessed by phone. Trained professionals answer the phone and both assist callers and connect or refer callers to local services and organizations. You can call and talk to an advocate anonymously, at no cost. The conversation is confidential.

Local Kansas sexual and domestic violence victim advocacy service providers are shown on the map below. Below the map, the provider information is listed. Please note that you do not have to live in the city where the provider is located to access and use the provider's services. All services are for victims and survivors, are available at no cost to the victim, are accessed and accepted voluntarily by the victim, and are confidential.



### The Crisis Center, Inc. - Manhattan, Kansas

Counties Served: Clay, Geary, Marshall, Pottawatomie, Riley

Services: Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Website: <http://www.thecrisiscenterinc.org/>

Crisis Hotline Number: 800-727-2785 or 785-539-2785

### Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas (DVACK) - Salina, Kansas

Counties Served: Cloud, Dickinson, Ellsworth, Jewell, Lincoln, Mitchell, Ottawa, Republic, Saline, Washington

Services: Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Website: <http://dvack.org/>

Crisis Hotline Number: 800-874-1499 or 785-827-5862

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE

1-800-273-TALK (8255)

[suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

**River Valley Extension District**  
Washington Office  
214 C. Street, Courthouse  
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**RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT**

**"2020 UP-COMING MEETINGS & EVENTS"**

**DATE**

**TIME**

**PROGRAM**

**LOCATION**

**River Valley District:**

programs and meetings are postponed/cancelled until further notice;  
offices are closed to public access at this time.

Please contact us by phone with questions or to make special arrangements.

Check us out on the Web at: [www.rivervalley.ksu.edu](http://www.rivervalley.ksu.edu)

Follow us on Facebook @ River Valley Extension District

**Check our webpage for COVID-19 Information and Resources for:**

- \*Financial Management
- \*Parenting Resources
- \*Work from Home
- \*Youth Activities
- \*Preventative Measures