



# River Valley District

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

K-State Research and Extension News

*Knowledge  
forLife*

**August 2016  
Volume 11 #8**

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## Winter Canola Pre-Plant School



**August 11, 2016  
Heavy's Steakhouse & BBQ  
103 W 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Concordia, KS  
Beginning with Lunch at 11:30 AM**

"We want to give new and experienced producers the information needed to make an informed decision about planting winter canola this fall."

Mike Stamm, K-State Research and Extension canola breeder.

#### Discussion Points

- What to do and what not to do in canola production
- Planting date and establishment methods
- Variety and hybrid performance
- No-till stand establishment and winter survival
- Soil fertility and insect management



*Free Event- All Interested in Canola Production in NC Kansas Are Welcome!*

*RSVP by calling 785-243-8185 by August 8<sup>th</sup>*

Meeting sponsored by:

Lunch will be provided.



For More Information Contact:  
River Valley Extension District  
Concordia Office 785-243-8185  
Kim Larson, Agent

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 Forstner, Director, River Valley Extension District #4, 322 Grant Avenue, Clay Center, KS 67432. Phone 785-632-5335.  
Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service  
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### Kurt Kocher, Cooperator; Center Township, Cloud County

| Brand                  | Variety       | Protein % | TW lb/bu | Yield bu/a | % of Average |
|------------------------|---------------|-----------|----------|------------|--------------|
| Limagrain Cereal Seeds | LCS Mint      | 10.7      | 62       | 126.0      | 123%         |
| Limagrain Cereal Seeds | LCS Wizard    | 11.1      | 62       | 109.0      | 106%         |
| Limagrain Cereal Seeds | LCS Pistol    | 11.4      | 60       | 106.7      | 104%         |
| WestBred               | Winterhawk    | 10.4      | 62       | 106.6      | 104%         |
| Wildcat Genetics       | KanMark       | 10.9      | 62       | 105.4      | 103%         |
| Wildcat Genetics       | 1863          | 11.0      | 63       | 104.9      | 102%         |
| WestBred               | WB-Grainfield | 10.5      | 62       | 103.6      | 101%         |
| Limagrain Cereal Seeds | T-158         | 10.8      | 62       | 102.4      | 100%         |
| Limagrain Cereal Seeds | LCS Chrome    | 10.9      | 61       | 101.8      | 99%          |
| WestBred               | WB 4458       | 11.0      | 61       | 101.3      | 99%          |
| WestBred               | WB Redhawk    | 11.3      | 62       | 98.6       | 96%          |
| WestBred               | Armour        | 11.5      | 61       | 94.1       | 92%          |
| Wildcat Genetics       | Everest       | 10.9      | 63       | 92.9       | 91%          |
| WestBred               | WB Cedar      | 11.4      | 62       | 88.9       | 87%          |

**Planting Date:** September 22, 2015  
**Tillage:** Conventional  
**Seeding Rate:** 75 lb/a  
**Fall Fertilizer Application:** 65 lbs 11-52-0, 90 lbs anhydrous  
**Fungicide Application:** April 23  
**Harvest Date:** June 24, 2016

### Gary Hatesohl, Cooperator; Greenleaf Township, Washington County

| Brand                  | Variety       | Protein % | TW lb/bu | Yield bu/a | % of Average |
|------------------------|---------------|-----------|----------|------------|--------------|
| Limagrain Cereal Seeds | LCS Mint      | 11.7      | 54       | 101.2      | 115%         |
| Wildcat Genetics       | 1863          | 11.4      | 57       | 97.3       | 111%         |
| WestBred               | WB Grainfield | 10.7      | 58       | 95.5       | 109%         |
| Limagrain Cereal Seeds | LCS Pistol    | 12.7      | 57       | 92.1       | 105%         |
| Limagrain Cereal Seeds | LCS Chrome    | 11.9      | 57       | 90.7       | 103%         |
| WestBred               | Winterhawk    | 10.7      | 58       | 88.4       | 101%         |
| WestBred               | Armour        | 11.9      | 56       | 87.4       | 99%          |
| WestBred               | WB Cedar      | 11.0      | 58       | 86.7       | 99%          |
| Limagrain Cereal Seeds | T-158         | 11.6      | 57       | 86.6       | 98%          |
| Wildcat Genetics       | Everest       | 12.0      | 57       | 85.6       | 97%          |
| Wildcat Genetics       | KanMark       | 11.1      | 55       | 81.9       | 93%          |
| Limagrain Cereal Seeds | LCS Wizard    | 12.5      | 57       | 81.8       | 93%          |
| WestBred               | WB 4458       | 11.6      | 49       | 79.6       | 91%          |
| WestBred               | WB Redhawk    | 11.8      | 56       | 73.7       | 84%          |

**Planting Date:** October 2, 2015  
**Tillage:** Conventional  
**Seeding Rate:** 120 lb/a  
**Fall Fertilizer Application:** 40-40-20-10 actual  
**Spring Fertilizer Application:** 80-40-20-10 actual  
**Fungicide Application:** May 10  
**Harvest Date:** June 27, 2016

Plot grazed Nov 23 - Feb

**Note:** When making a final variety selection, please use all resources and information available including K-State Research and Extension experiment sites across the state, seed companies, and your past cropping history. Be sure and evaluate all aspects including varieties, disease, day length, fertilization, insects, and growing conditions. **Replicated K-State Research and Extension performance test data can be found at the following website:**

<http://www.agronomy.k-state.edu/services/crop-performance-tests/winter-wheat/2016-wheat-performance-tests.html>

# River Valley Extension District 2016 Wheat Demo Plot Yields



| <b>Christian Tipton, 4-H Plot; Fairview Township, Republic County</b> |               |          |            |              |
|---|---------------|----------|------------|--------------|
| Brand   | Variety       | TW lb/bu | Yield bu/a | % of Average |
| Limagrain Cereal Seeds  | LCS Chrome    | 62       | 59.1       | 123%         |
| Wildcat Genetics  | 1863          | 61       | 57.4       | 120%         |
| Limagrain Cereal Seeds  | LCS Pistol    | 62       | 54.8       | 114%         |
| Wildcat Genetics  | KanMark       | 61       | 53.0       | 111%         |
| Limagrain Cereal Seeds  | LCS Mint      | 61       | 51.9       | 108%         |
| WestBred  | WB Grainfield | 62       | 50.1       | 105%         |
| Limagrain Cereal Seeds  | T-158         | 62       | 48.3       | 101%         |
| WestBred  | WB Cedar      | 61       | 47.7       | 100%         |
| Limagrain Cereal Seeds  | LCS Wizard    | 61       | 46.9       | 98%          |
| WestBred  | Winterhawk    | 61       | 44.0       | 92%          |
| WestBred  | WB 4458       | 61       | 43.8       | 91%          |
| Wildcat Genetics  | Everest       | 62       | 40.4       | 84%          |
| WestBred  | Armour        | 60       | 34.3       | 72%          |
| WestBred  | WB Redhawk    | 61       | 31.2       | 65%          |

**Planting Date:** October 10, 2015  
**Tillage:** No-till  
**Seeding Rate:** 100 lb/a  
**Fall Fertilizer Application:** 2 gal Riser, 2 gal 10-34-0 at planting  
**Spring Fertilizer Application:** 28-0-0 83 lbs/acre  
**Fungicide Application:** May 7  
**Harvest Date:** July 1, 2016

Had light hail damage

| <b>Zoe Auld, 4-H Plot; Republican Township, Clay County</b> |               |          |            |              |
|---|---------------|----------|------------|--------------|
| Brand   | Variety       | TW lb/bu | Yield bu/a | % of Average |
| Limagrain Cereal Seeds                                      | LCS Mint      | 61       | 60.8       | 103%         |
| Wildcat Genetics  | Kanmark       | 61       | 60.3       | 102%         |
| WestBred  | Winterhawk    | 59       | 60.2       | 102%         |
| Wildcat Genetics  | SY Flint      | 60       | 60.0       | 101%         |
| WestBred  | WB Grainfield | 61       | 59.9       | 101%         |
| Limagrain Cereal Seeds                                      | T158          | 59       | 59.7       | 101%         |
| Limagrain Cereal Seeds                                      | LCSWizard     | 60       | 59.6       | 101%         |
| WestBred  | WB 4458       | 60       | 59.4       | 100%         |
| Limagrain Cereal Seeds                                      | LCS Pistol    | 60       | 59.4       | 100%         |
| Wildcat Genetics  | 1863          | 59       | 59.1       | 100%         |
| Wildcat Genetics  | Everest       | 58       | 59.0       | 99%          |
| Limagrain Cereal Seeds                                      | LCS Chrome    | 59       | 58.9       | 99%          |
| WestBred  | Armour        | 59       | 58.9       | 99%          |
| WestBred  | WB Redhawk    | 59       | 58.6       | 99%          |
| WestBred  | WB Cedar      | 57       | 57.9       | 98%          |
| AGSECO  | Hot Rod       | 56       | 56.9       | 96%          |

**Planting Date:** October 27, 2015  
**Tillage:** Conventional  
**Seeding Rate:** 120 lb/a  
**Fall Fertilizer Application:** In-Furrow 160 lbs 18-46-0  
**Spring Fertilizer Application:** 90 lbs actual N  
**Fungicide Application:** 1<sup>st</sup> week of May  
**Harvest Date:** July 1, 2016

**Note:** When making a final variety selection, please use all resources and information available including K-State Research and Extension experiment sites across the state, seed companies, and your past cropping history. Be sure and evaluate all aspects including varieties, disease, day length, fertilization, insects, and growing conditions. **Replicated K-State Research and Extension performance test data can be found at the following website:**

<http://www.agronomy.k-state.edu/services/crop-performance-tests/winter-wheat/2016-wheat-performance-tests.html>



| Yields Averaged Over The Four Plot Locations |               |               |                 |              |  |
|--|---------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| Brand  | Variety       | Yield<br>bu/a | % of<br>Average | Maturity     |  |
| Limagrain Cereal Seeds                       | LCS Mint      | 85.0          | 114%            | medium       |  |
| Wildcat Genetics                             | 1863*         | 79.7          | 107%            | medium       |  |
| Limagrain Cereal Seeds                       | LCS Pistol*   | 78.2          | 105%            | medium-early |  |
| Limagrain Cereal Seeds                       | LCS Chrome    | 77.6          | 104%            | medium-late  |  |
| WestBred                                     | WB Grainfield | 77.3          | 104%            | medium-late  |  |
| Wildcat Genetics                             | KanMark       | 75.1          | 101%            | medium       |  |
| WestBred                                     | Winterhawk    | 74.8          | 100%            | medium       |  |
| Limagrain Cereal Seeds                       | LCS Wizard    | 74.3          | 100%            | medium       |  |
| Limagrain Cereal Seeds                       | T 158         | 74.2          | 100%            | medium-early |  |
| WestBred                                     | WB 4458       | 71.0          | 95%             | medium       |  |
| WestBred                                     | WB Cedar      | 70.3          | 94%             | early        |  |
| Wildcat Genetics                             | Everest       | 69.4          | 93%             | early        |  |
| WestBred                                     | Armour        | 68.6          | 92%             | early        |  |
| WestBred                                     | WB Redhawk    | 65.5          | 88%             | early        |  |

\*Lodged at two sites

## PROPER HAY STORAGE

One of my favorite quotes about hay is, “Your hay is only as good as the day you feed it or the day you sell it”. There is so much truth to that statement. No matter how good your hay is today, between now and feeding time, every windstorm and every rain is going to steal nutrients from every exposed bale and stack.

With that said, it is extremely important to store hay properly. The ultimate goal is to minimize nutrient loss caused by weathering. Various types of weathering tend to lower the yield and nutrients available from the hay by about one percent per month of exposed storage.

The higher quality hay that will be sold or fed to high value animals like dairy cattle and horses should be stored under cover. Any type of shed is better than being exposed to the elements. It does not have to be pretty and sit at the perfect angle, but it is helpful to have the hay under some kind of cover.

Plastic wraps have also been found to be very effective when used properly. The next best option is tarps, especially the heavy duty ones that can be tied down without tearing in the wind. Plastic has also been used, but it is much less effective and is tough to fasten down properly.

If your only option is to leave your hay uncovered, place bales and stacks on an elevated site with good drainage so moisture doesn't soak up from the bottom. If proper drainage doesn't occur, the nutrient value drastically decreases. Do not stack round bales or line them up with the twine sides touching as rain will collect where they touch and soak into the bale. Last but not least, allow space for air to circulate and dry the hay after a rain.

I know that some of this information seems trivial, but it never fails that while driving down the road I see someone not storing hay properly. It might take a little extra work but in order to maintain hay quality, it is important to store it correctly.



## CONFIRMED BLUE-GREEN ALGAE CASES EARLY IN SEASON

It is that time of the year again. Cattle are turned out on grass, and they are pretty content with their lives. As a result, as cattlemen we can become pretty complacent when it comes to management. One problem that exist every year in the state of Kansas is confirmed cases of blue-green algae. This article will go over what blue-green algae has already been identified, how to recognize it, and how to treat it.

Two cases have already been confirmed in Kansas as having blue-green algae in their ponds along with one case that is currently being investigated. The confirmed cases have all involved the same symptoms which included muscle tremors and convulsions in cattle. A majority of the time, death on pasture occurs before any type of clinical sign is observed. This is normally a problem that occurs later in the summer. This could be an early sign this year that more problems might be occurring in the state.

Now that it is identified as a problem, what can producers look for as an identifier? Blue-green algae is a bacteria found in a lot of ponds across the state. One of the ways to identify this bacteria is looking for a concentrated area in a pond that resembles green paint on top of the water that has not been stirred. This concentrated area

is called a bloom. The cause of a bloom can be one of 3 things: hot temperatures, run off, and also light breezes. The best way to identify if you have blue-green algae is by taking a water sample and sending it off for testing. A water sampling kit can be found at your local extension office. If you suspect that you might have blue-green algae, then a temporary fix is to put up panels so that the cattle have restricted access to the water that is clean.



There is currently no treatment available for cattle if they ingest a toxic dose of blue-green algae. Timing is of huge concern for this as you normally find the cattle after it is too late or they might not even show the clinical signs. If they consume a large amount of this bacteria, most cattle will result in death. If they consume a smaller amount, it can damage the liver. It also has the ability to damage the skin and will appear as though the cattle are sunburnt. The best treatment is to take the cattle out of the pasture and put them into a shaded area until they heal. This can take a week or two to recover.

After blue-green algae is identified, treatment options are available for the pond. The best treatment is copper sulfate using the correct application rates. It is important to know how large the pond is in order to apply the correct application rate. If too much copper sulfate is applied, copper toxicity can occur. This is a less frequent problem in cattle, but sheep are extremely sensitive to copper. Applying copper sulfate would also kill any fish in the pond.

Blue-green algae not only affects cattle but can also affect dogs. If dogs jump into a bloom, this can be toxic to dogs and can also result in death. If a dog jumps in the pond with blue-green algae, it is important to bathe the dog immediately. If the pond could possibly have blue-green algae, it is smart to leave the dog at home until treatment is applied and the blue-green algae is gone.



There are many different resources available for cattle producers on blue-green algae. If blue-green algae is a problem in your pond, feel free to contact Katelyn Brockus at the Washington Extension office, 785-325-2121, for additional publications on this harmful bacteria.

## NEW K-STATE BEEF VETERINARIAN

Dr. A. J. Tarpoff has joined the Kansas State University Department of Animal Sciences and Industry as assistant professor and extension beef veterinarian specialist.

Tarpoff was born and raised in Edwardsville, Illinois. His family owned and operated a beef processing plant and a steakhouse. He received his bachelor's in animal science at K-State in 2010. In 2012, he received his DVM and Master's in biomedical science at K-State.

After earning his DVM, he accepted an associate feedlot veterinarian position at Alberta Beef Health Solutions in Southern Alberta, Canada. His focus in practice was herd based cattle production medicine, research field trials, hands on feedlot employee training, disease surveillance and mitigation and federal import/export duties.

At K-State, Tarpoff's appointment is 70% extension, 20% research and 10% teaching. He will work closely with the state's extension team to develop an extension program to help improve the health of cow-calf, stocker and feedlot cattle for beef producers throughout the state.

Tarpoff can be reached at KSU Department of Animal Science and Industry, 228 Weber Hall in Manhattan, by phone at 785-532-1255 or email [tarpoff@ksu.edu](mailto:tarpoff@ksu.edu).



## SAVE THE DATE!

**KSU BEEF STOCKER FIELD DAY  
SEPTEMBER 22, 2016**

**KSU BEEF STOCKER UNIT**

**MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!**

## BLOSSOM END ROT

Do you have tomatoes with a sunken, brown leathery patch on the bottom of the fruit? If you do, then you probably have blossom end rot. Even though blossom end rot is most common on tomatoes, it can also affect squash, peppers and watermelons. Blossom end rot is not a disease; it is a condition that is caused by a lack of calcium in the soil. In Kansas this is not necessarily the case, because Kansas soils are derived from limestone, which is partially made up of calcium. So, what causes blossom end rot in Kansas? Actually, there are a number of possible causes, especially on tomatoes. Let's look at some of the other possible causes.



The first possible cause could be that the tomato tops have outgrown the root system. During cooler spring weather the root system can keep up, but when it turns hot and dry, the plant tries to keep itself alive by sending water; with the calcium it carries; to the leaves and the fruit is bypassed. The plant responds to the heat and lack of calcium with new root growth which should allow the condition to correct itself after a couple of weeks.

The second possible cause could be heavy fertilization, especially with ammonium forms of nitrogen, which can encourage this condition. Heavy fertilization encourages more top foliage growth than root growth causing the ammonium form of nitrogen to compete with calcium for uptake through the roots to the fruit.

The third possible cause could be anything that disturbs the plant roots such as hoeing too deep. Mulching helps because it keeps the soil surface cooler and reduces weed growth and promotes a better environment for root growth.

The fourth possible cause could be inconsistent watering. Keep soil moist but not waterlogged. Mulching can help by keeping the soil moisture level consistent over time. Even so, there are some years you do everything right and the condition shows up due to the weather. In such cases, remember that blossom-end rot is a temporary condition, and plants should come out of it in a couple of weeks. You want to pick off affected fruit to encourage new fruit formation.

If you are noticing that you have a lot of blossom end rot occurring, go through the possible causes and see if you can find what might be causing the problem. And just remember you can do everything right and still end up getting blossom end rot, but it should correct itself in a couple of weeks.

Kelsey Hatesohl, Horticulture Agent

## Kansas Garden Guide

If you are new to gardening or want to plan a fall garden then pick up the Kansas Garden Guide. This 76-page, full-color, comprehensive guide to gardening in Kansas is available at any River Valley Extension Office for the low price of \$5.00.

## RISK & PROFIT CONFERENCE

The annual K-State Risk & Profit Conference conducted by the Department of Agricultural Economics will be held August 18-19, 2016 at the K-State Alumni Center in Manhattan

This year's conference will focus on **The Farm Financial Situation- Navigating a Struggling Ag Economy**. The conference is designed to be beneficial for anyone in the agricultural industry from producers, to agribusinesses, to ag lenders and features a blend of keynote speakers and breakout sessions.

Participants are encouraged to attend both days but for those whose schedule is limited then one-day registrations for either Thursday or Friday are available. Early registration is due by August 12 with fees increasing after that. The two-day registration is \$200 with a discount price of \$180 for an additional member from the operation. One-day fees are \$125 with additional member \$110. After August 12 the two day fee goes to \$225 and the one-day fee to \$150.

Keynote sessions include:

\*The Farm Financial Situation – Dr. Allen Featherstone and Dr. Mykel Taylor

\*A Conversation with a Kansas Producer – Lee and Margaret Scheufler, Sterling, KS

\*Long-term View on the Current Price Situation – Dr. Bill Tierney, AgResource Company

\*Livestock & Grain Market Outlook – Dr. Glynn Tonser and Dr. Dan O'Brien

Participants may choose seven of the twenty breakout sessions offered. These sessions range in topic from Navigating the Struggling Farm Economy, to Planning for Income Tax Consequences for Farm Financial Stress Transactions, to Managing Machinery Costs, to Evaluating Technology Options, to The Evolving Farmer-Cooperative Landscape.

Registration forms at: [www.AgManager.info](http://www.AgManager.info) . Contact Rich Llewelyn at 785-532-1504 or [rwl@k-state.edu](mailto:rwl@k-state.edu) with questions.

## AG LENDERS CONFERENCE

The 2016 Kansas State University Agricultural Lenders Conference will be held October 4, 2016 in Garden City and October 5, 2016 in Manhattan.

This conference is a day-long session running from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm that is designed to provide Ag Lenders with an update on topics affecting their ag producer customer base.

The 2016 Conference topics include: Grain Market Outlook for 2017, Beef Cattle Market Outlook for 2017, Macro and Interest Rate Outlook, Farms in Various Financial Vulnerability Categories, Family Living Expenses, Financial Benchmarking and Position, and Diversified Crop-Livestock Operations.

Registration forms can be found by contacting any River Valley District office or go to [www.AgManager.info](http://www.AgManager.info) . Contact Dr. Rich Llewelyn at 785-532-1504 or [rwl@k-state.edu](mailto:rwl@k-state.edu) with questions or for additional information.

## LIFE AFTER CRP

For landowners and operators with land coming out of CRP this fall, the decision of what to do with their asset going forward may be daunting. According to the FSA “*A more restrictive nationwide acreage limit was established for CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) in the 2014 Farm Bill, capping the total number of acres that may be enrolled at 24 million for fiscal years 2017 and 2018. At the same time, USDA has experienced a record demand from farmers and ranchers interested in participating CRP. As of March 2016, 23.8 million acres were enrolled in CRP, with 1.7 million acres set to expire this fall. Agricultural producers who have CRP contracts that were not accepted back into the program are now faced with deciding if they should destroy the grass cover and plant crops or graze and hay the expired acres.*”

To help address questions the Tuttle Creek WRAPS will be holding two “Life After CRP” workshops in the Tuttle Creek Watershed. The goal of these workshops is to provide landowners with information that will be helpful in evaluating the economic costs, benefits and opportunities of various land uses. Watering alternatives will be presented. Speakers from FSA, NRCS, KSU Extension & Tuttle Creek WRAPS will outline the programs and cost share opportunities now & in future years. During this workshop a range of options including both public and private revenue streams will be discussed by Mykel Taylor, Farm Management Extension Economist at Kansas State University.

DATE: Tuesday, September 13  
LOCATION: Landoll Lanes Conference Room  
2005 Center Street, Marysville  
TIME: 9:00 – 11:30 AM

DATE: Tuesday, September 13  
LOCATION: First National Bank Building Lower Level  
101 C Street, Washington  
TIME: 1:30—4:00 PM

This is a free program open to the public.  
NO RSVP is needed just come as you are.  
Direct Questions to: Barbara Donovan, Tuttle Creek WRAPS Coordinator, [donovanmn@aol.com](mailto:donovanmn@aol.com) 651-247-8292

## LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION PLANNING

The demographics of the River Valley Extension District continue to lead us to the discussion of succession planning. We have done considerable work on farm succession planning in Extension. Many economic development groups have spent much time on business succession planning. A third piece of this planning puzzle that must be addressed as our population ages is leadership succession.

If we take a few minutes to think about the characteristics that we want our next generation of leadership to embody, three words come to mind for me: citizenship, trust, and character.

I will start with trust as I think it is the foundation for all relationships, public or private. David Horsager in his book entitled The Trust Edge outlines the 8 Pillars of Trust:

- Clarity** – people trust the clear and mistrust ambiguous
- Compassion** – people trust those who care beyond themselves
- Character** – people notice those who do what is right over what is easy
- Competency** – people have confidence in those who stay fresh, relevant, capable.
- Commitment** – people believe in those who stand through adversity
- Connection** – people want to follow, buy from, and be around friends
- Contribution** – people immediately respond to results
- Consistency** – people love little things done consistently

K-State Research and Extension in its Leadership Excellence and Dynamic Solutions (LEADS) Curriculum outlines Six Pillars of Character.

- Trustworthiness** – is built on honesty, integrity, courage, fidelity, and loyalty
- Respect** – be courteous and polite, and appreciate differences
- Responsibility** – pursue excellence, persevere through difficulty, be accountable, be reliable, and take initiative
- Fairness** – be open-minded, make impartial and fair decisions based upon consistent and appropriate standards.
- Caring** – the old saying “People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care” holds true. Exhibit kindness, compassion, and generosity.
- Citizenship** – Obey laws and rules, do your share, be charitable and altruistic, stay informed, exercise your right to vote, and work to protect your family and community.

I would propose that those aspiring to leadership, whether it be running the family business or running for public office, should work to make decisions every day based upon the 8 Pillars of Trust and the 6 Pillars of Character.

For those looking to recruit that next generation to take our place, these pillars become a great checklist to evaluate candidates to groom for leadership.

I would challenge anyone currently in or anyone aspiring to leadership roles to adopt the 4-H Pledge on a very personal level. “I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service, and my health to better living for my club, my community, my country and my world,” will guide us on a citizenship path where we consistently do the right things for the right reasons.

K-State Research and Extension will again be offering the Board Leadership Series in 2017. This four-part series helps prepare prospective board members for service while providing an update of skills for current board members. These evening sessions will be held February 21, 23, 28, and March 2, 2016. Location within the River Valley District will be determined at a later date. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this outstanding series that has a mix of presentations and hands-on activities.

John Forshee, District Director

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**RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT  
“2016 UP-COMING MEETINGS & EVENTS”**

| <b>DATE</b>  | <b>TIME</b> | <b>PROGRAM</b>  | <b>LOCATION</b>                           |
|--------------|-------------|---|---|
| August 2     | 6-8pm       | Medicare Basics   | Concordia Senior Center                   |
| August 2-6   |             | NCK Free Fair   | Belleville-Fairgrounds                    |
| August 4     | 8am         | Kansas Turfgrass Field Day                              | Manhattan-Rocky Ford Turf Research Center |
| August 4     | 1:30-3pm    | Alzheimer’s and Dementia Q & A                          | Courthouse Ext. Mtg. Rm.-Concordia        |
| August 4     | 5:30-7pm    | Alzheimer’s and Dementia Q & A                          | Apollo Towers Dining Rm.-Clay Center      |
| August 8     | 10-11am     | Stay Strong Stay Healthy (Mon. & Wed. thru Sept. 29)    | The Branch-Clyde                          |
| August 9     | 8:30-4pm    | REST Training   | Cloud County Courthouse                   |
| August 11    | 11:30am     | Winter Canola Pre-Plant School                          | Heavy’s Steakhouse & BBQ                  |
| August 15    | 6-8pm       | Medicare Basics   | Extension Office Mtg. Room-Clay Center    |
| August 16    | 6pm         | K-State Experiment Field-Fall Field Day                 | 1300 60th Road, Courtland                 |
| August 18-19 |             | Risk & Profit Conference                                | K-State                                   |
| August 25    | 9-11:30am   | Chronic Disease Self-Management (Thursdays thru Oct. 6) | Neighbor to Neighbor-Concordia            |
| Sept. 13     | 9-11:30am   | Life After CRP  | Marysville-Landoll Lanes Conf. Room       |
| Sept. 13     | 1:30-4pm    | Life After CRP  | Washington-First National Bank Mtg. Rm.   |
| Sept. 22     |             | KSU Beef Stocker Field Day                              | KSU Beef Stocker Unit                     |
| October 5    |             | 2016 KSU Ag Lenders Conference                          | Manhattan                                 |

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, Director, River Valley Extension District # 4, 322 Grant Avenue, Clay Center, KS 67432. Phone 785-632-5335.