



River Valley District

K-STATE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION NEWS

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WHY BEEF PRODUCERS SHOULD TEST THEIR 2026 FORAGES

As beef producers begin feeding this year's hay and harvested forages, one of the most important management decisions they can make is also one of the simplest: test the forage before feeding it. Forage testing provides valuable information about the nutritional quality of hay, silage and other stored feeds, helping producers make better decisions about supplementation, animal performance and feed costs. Forage quality can vary significantly from one cutting, field or bale to another. Factors such as plant maturity at harvest, weather conditions, fertilization, storage and harvest methods all influence the amount of nutrients available to cattle. Two hay fields harvested on the same farm can have very different nutritional values. Relying on appearance, smell or past experience alone does not provide an accurate picture of what cattle are consuming.

A forage test provides information such as crude protein, total digestible nutrients, fiber levels, and mineral content. These values can be used to determine whether the forage is meeting the nutritional requirements of a particular group of cattle. A dry, mature cow in mid-gestation has much different nutritional needs than a first-calf heifer, growing replacement heifer, or lactating cow. Testing forage becomes especially important when cattle are entering periods of increased nutritional demand. For example, forage that adequately maintains a mature cow during mid-gestation may not provide enough energy or protein during late gestation and early lactation. Without testing, producers may either underfeed cattle and risk lost performance or over-supplement and spend money on nutrients the cattle may not need.

Feed costs are one of the largest expenses in a beef operation, making every pound of purchased supplement important. A forage test allows producers to develop a supplementation program based on actual nutrient deficiencies rather than guessing. If hay is higher in protein and energy than expected, supplementation may be reduced. If forage quality is lower than expected, additional protein or energy can be provided before cattle lose body condition or performance. Testing can also help producers make better decisions about which forage should be fed to different groups of cattle. Higher-quality hay may be reserved for cows approaching calving, lactating cows, or replacement heifers. Lower-quality forage may be appropriate for animals with lower nutritional requirements.

Sampling is an important part of getting useful results. Producers should collect a representative sample from multiple bales or lots of hay rather than testing a single bale. For silage or other stored feeds, proper sampling procedures are equally important. Working with a local extension office, nutritionist, or forage laboratory can help ensure samples are collected and submitted correctly. Ultimately, forage testing is a relatively small investment that can prevent much larger feed costs and production losses. As producers work with their 2026 forage supplies, knowing exactly what is in the feed bunk or hay ring allows them to build a more precise nutrition program, use supplements efficiently, and keep cattle performing at their best.

Before reaching for another bag of supplement, test the forage first. The results may save money, improve cattle performance, and provide peace of mind throughout the feeding season. For more information contact livestock agent Kaitlyn Nelson by calling the Washington office at 785-325-2121 or by emailing khildebrand@ksu.edu.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

UNTIL THE COWS COME HOME: FIVE STRATEGIES TO STOP SICKNESS BEFORE IT STARTS THIS FALL

Cattle producers face numerous opportunities for disease to enter their herds, particularly during the fall when cattle return from community pastures, grazing leases, livestock shows, or other shared environments. Purchasing replacement cattle, borrowing equipment, and using outside transportation can also increase the risk of introducing disease. The importance of biosecurity and disease prevention in beef cattle operations is generally easier and less expensive than dealing with an outbreak after it occurs.

There are five key strategies producers can use to reduce disease risks. First, producers should carefully manage cattle that leave for or return from community pastures or shared grazing areas. Cattle that are sick or in poor condition should not be sent to communal pastures because they could expose other animals. When cattle return home, they should ideally be separated from the main herd for approximately three to four weeks. This gives producers time to watch for signs of illness before potentially exposing the rest of the herd.

Second, new cattle should be quarantined and, when appropriate, tested. New arrivals should be kept separate for about three weeks and should not share water sources or have nose-to-nose contact with the established herd. Producers are encouraged to ask about the animal's vaccination history and previous health problems. Testing can help identify diseases such as BVD, IBR, Johne's disease, leptospirosis, and other reproductive diseases. Bulls may also be tested for diseases such as trichomoniasis and vibrio.

Third, cleanliness and disinfection are important when trying to prevent the spread of diseases. Equipment such as trailers, chutes, scales, syringes, tubes, and bottles can spread pathogens between animals and farms. Producers should clean and disinfect equipment, change needles frequently, and allow equipment to dry properly. Equipment used with sick animals should not then be used on healthy or newborn cattle without proper cleaning. When working cattle start with lower-risk animals then move to higher-risk animals to minimize disease transmission.

Fourth, producers should be cautious when sharing equipment or animals with other farms. Before sharing chutes, bulls, trailers, or other resources, producers should discuss vaccination programs, parasite control, and potential disease risks. Good communication between farms can help prevent unexpected disease exposure.

Finally, producers should understand the flow of animals and potential disease risks throughout their operation. Looking at the farm layout can help identify problems involving

drainage, animal movement, neighboring livestock, deadstock disposal, and areas where different groups of cattle come into contact. Keeping facilities clean and providing adequate bedding are particularly important during high-risk periods such as calving and when new cattle arrive.

Overall, biosecurity is important for operations of every size. Simple daily practice like vaccinating appropriately, quarantining new or returning cattle, cleaning equipment, separating sick animals, and understanding how disease can move through a farm can significantly reduce health risks. Good biosecurity protects cattle health and welfare, reduces financial losses, and can also help protect the broader beef industry and human health from zoonotic diseases.

K-STATE BEEF STOCKER FIELD DAY SET FOR SEPTEMBER 24TH

Beef producers are invited to attend the 27th annual K-State Beef Stocker Field Day on Thursday, September 24, at the K-State Beef Stocker Unit in Manhattan, Kansas. The event provides an opportunity for stocker and backgrounding producers to learn from industry experts, K-State researchers and fellow producers about current challenges and management strategies affecting the stocker cattle industry.

The day will begin with registration and coffee at 9:30 a.m., followed by a Beef Cattle Outlook presented by Dr. Glynn Tonsor of the K-State Department of Agricultural Economics. A producer panel will then explore whether *Theileria* impacts the health of newly arrived stocker cattle, featuring experts from K-State, Southlex Cattle Co. and SEK Genetics. Following a brisket lunch and poster viewing, the afternoon program will focus on practical management topics, including strategies for improving stocker cattle performance, considerations for using corn silage in growing and backgrounding programs, mineral nutrition strategies before and after weaning, and tactics for determining when and where to pen cattle.

Speakers include experts from K-State, Alltech, the University of Nebraska, the University of Florida and the livestock industry. The program will conclude with the annual "Cutting Bull's Lament" and Prairie Oyster event.

Registration is \$30 per participant through September 10, with late or on-site registration available for \$40. The field day will be held at the K-State Beef Stocker Unit, 4330 Marlatt Ave., Manhattan.

For more information, contact Katie Smith at 785-532-1267 or katiesmith@ksu.edu. Registration is available at KSUbeef.org.

**River Valley Extension District Offices
Will be Closed on Monday, September 7th
In Honor of Labor Day**

FARMERS CAN BENEFIT FROM THE BRAND-NEW MILO FUTURES MARKET

On August 24th, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) launched a new product called the Grain Sorghum Futures Basis Contract. This product allows farmers to hedge their milo crop in the futures market. Unlike most grains, where trade is based on the futures price of the commodity, this product will trade based on the price difference between corn and milo, hence it being a “futures basis” contract. Before this new product, the last time that milo futures could be traded was 1999.

Because there are very few ways for farmers to differentiate their crop from the crops of other farms, farmers are referred to as “**price takers**”. This means that farmers cannot set the price of their grain before selling it. The price of their grain is quoted to them by the grain’s buyers. This creates challenges because grain prices can fluctuate dramatically throughout the year, and you can never know what grain prices will be at harvest when you make planting decisions.

Futures Market Crash Course

Farmers have multiple options to help mitigate the risk that price fluctuations pose to profitability. One of these options is trading in the futures market. Here’s how it works:

1. Watch the futures market until price reaches a point that clears your breakeven point or profit goal.
2. “Go short”, i.e., make a commitment to sell grain at that price point.
3. At harvest, buy back your commitment at the harvest price.
4. Sell your grain in the local cash market.

The old adage is: “buy low, sell high”. The price difference between where you made your commitment and where you bought it back is the margin that gets added to the price you sold at in the local cash market. For example, if you sell corn at \$4.00/bu. in the futures market, then buy it back at \$3.00/bu., you gain \$1.00/bu. on top of your cash price by using the futures market.

However, price can just as easily go up after you sell in the futures market. If you sell in the futures market at \$4.00/bu., then buy it back at \$5.00/bu. when harvest comes, then you subtract \$1.00/bu. from your cash price. So, the point of the futures market is not to guarantee that you make more, but to **mitigate the risk of selling your crop at a loss**. If you know your breakeven point or your profit goal at the time you sell in the futures market, you can lock in a profit no matter which direction price moves later.

In 1999, CME removed the option to trade milo in the futures market because of low usage. If there aren’t enough

active traders in a market, then sometimes there aren’t enough buyers to sellers looking to “go short”, and vice versa. Since then, if farmers wanted to hedge milo in the futures market, they would have to trade using the corn futures market, since corn and milo have similar price ranges and agronomic properties in their vegetative stages. However, the sources of price risk in the milo market are much different than those in the corn market, so when traders try to mitigate price risk by hedging in the corn futures market, they aren’t necessarily mitigating price risk in milo.

To address both challenges, the new product is a futures **basis** contract, so the price that gets traded is the difference between corn and milo. This allows the product to take advantage of the large number of traders in the corn market to keep trade from getting stopped up like it did in 1999. Also, it allows the price to reflect the risk factors that are unique to milo production. By using the Grain Sorghum Futures Basis Contract, farmers can finally build a marketing plan specifically suited for milo to help best position themselves for a profitable crop.

If you have questions about the new milo futures market or commodity trading in general, feel free to contact Luke Byers, River Valley Extension District Agriculture & Natural Resources Program Manager, at 717-491-5259 or by email at lsbyers@ksu.edu.

SHEET PAN MEALS PRESENTATION TO BE HELD AT WAKEFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

A FREE Sheet pan meals presentation will be held on Wednesday, November 18th at 4:30pm. This presentation is open to everyone.

Registering in advance does help us plan! Please register with the Wakefield Library at 785-461-5510 .

The Wakefield Public Library is located at 206 Dogwood Street in Wakefield, KS .

This presentation will cover:

- Benefits of sheet pan meals
- The formula for creating a sheet pan meal
- Helpful tips
- Recipe demonstration and taste testing

Questions can be directed to Kaitlin Moore, Nutrition, Food Safety & Health Agent at 785-243-8185.



WITS WORKOUT

Many factors contribute to brain health throughout life. Two of these factors include intellectual challenge and social connectedness. WITS Workout provides a purposeful opportunity to engage intellectually and socially. The WITS Workout was created by Illinois Extension and consists of 24 different themed programs.

Join Jordan Schuette, Adult Development and Aging Agent, for any of the following WITs Workout Programs around the River Valley Extension District. Three opportunities are available to attend a WITs Workout in September. The first will be held at the Washington Public Library with the program, “Slumber Party,” will be held on Thursday, September 17th at 11:00 am. The activities in this session will focus on sleep, covering how restful sleep impacts brain health.

The second opportunity will be in Concordia at the Concordia Senior Center where you can attend the “Comforts of Home,” program on Wednesday, September 23rd at 11:30 am. This program focuses on recall and memory, with the activity theme being comforts of home.

The last opportunity in September will be in Belleville at the Belleville Public Library where you can attend, “The World Over” program on Wednesday, September 23rd at 2:00 pm. This program focuses on stress management and the activity themes focus on world travel.

In October meet at the Washington Public Library for the program, “Two Heads are Better than One,” focuses on socialization and how social connections impact brain health. It will be held on Thursday, October 15th at 11:00 am.

These programs are free to attend, and you can attend any of them. If you have any questions or would like to RSVP for this program, contact Jordan Schuette at RVED Washington Office at 785- 325-2121.

“Slumber Party”

Thursday, September 17th

11:00 am

Washington Public Library

116 E 2nd St., Washington

“Comforts of Home”

Wednesday, September 23rd

11:30 a.m.

Concordia Senior Center

109 West 7th St., Concordia

“The World Over”

Wednesday, September 23rd

2:00 p.m.

Belleville Public Library

1327 19th St, Belleville

“Two Heads are Better than One”

Thursday, October 15th

11:00 am

Washington Public Library

116 E 2nd St., Washington

2027 MEDICARE PART D OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Open Enrollment for 2027 Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plans is October 15 through December 7. You can call beginning Monday, September 14th, to schedule an appointment with a Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas (SHICK) Counselor to review your prescription drug plan. There are limited counselors, so please do not delay in making your appointment.

When you schedule an appointment, you will receive a Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Coverage Worksheet that must be completed and returned to your local RVED Office before your appointment. Regardless of who assists you, Medicare beneficiaries will need to list all prescription drugs taken, dosage, and 30-day quantity on the worksheet.

Call your pharmacy or where you purchase your medications to find out the specific Prescription Drug Plans they will handle.

Return the worksheet to the Extension Office at least 10 days prior to your appointment to speed up your meeting. Also, bring any recent letters you have received from Social Security or Medicare to your appointment and bring your Medicare card. Please call to set up your appointment at your local K-State Research and Extension Office: Belleville Office: 785-527-5084, Clay Center Office: 785-632-5335, Concordia Office: 785-243-8185, and Washington Office: 785-325-2121.

MEDICARE BASICS IN WASHINGTON

Medicare and its parts, options, and plans can be confusing. Whether you are starting Medicare soon or are already on Medicare, consider attending Medicare Basics to learn about the benefits, enrollment, eligibility, and more! Please join us for a Medicare Basics Program hosted by the Washington County Hospital on Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 6 pm. Refreshments will be provided by the hospital.

Medicare Basics is free to attend, but registration is requested by calling the Washington Office at 785-325-2121. If you have specific questions regarding Medicare, please call Jordan Schuette at 785-325-2121 or email at jschuette@ksu.edu.

REVIEWING MEDICARE

The Clay Center Library Program for the month of September will be Reviewing Medicare.

Join River Valley Extension Agents, Monica Thayer and Jordan Schuette to review Medicare before the upcoming Annual Open Enrollment Period.

We will update you on changes coming to Medicare for 2027 and answer questions.

This program will take place on Monday, September 26, 2026, at 3pm, in Carnegie Library, 706 6th Street, Clay Center. Please rsvp to the River Valley-Clay Center Office at 785-632-5335.

SPEND, SAVE, SUCCEED TO BE HELD IN CONCORDIA

Individuals and families looking to strengthen their financial well-being are invited to participate in **Spend, Save, Succeed**, a financial management educational series designed to help participants make informed financial decisions, develop healthy money habits, and work toward long-term financial success.

The River Valley Extension District is partnering with Cloud County Community College Library Services to offer the educational series to community members and college students. Participants will learn essential skills related to financial decision-making, budgeting, saving, debt management, and goal setting.

The series will consist of four educational programs held at the Cloud County Community College Library, 2221 Campus Drive, Concordia.

- Thursday, September 3rd, 2026 at 6pm – Money Habitudes®
- Thursday, September 10th, 2026 at 6pm – Income & Expenses
- Thursday, September 24th, 2026 at 6pm – Savings
- Thursday, October 1st, 2026 at 6pm – Debt & Credit

All sessions are free and open to the public. Registration is requested to ensure adequate educational materials are available. Participants may attend the entire series or select individual sessions based on their interests and needs.

To register, visit <https://bit.ly/SpendSaveSucceed> or call the K-State Extension Office in Concordia at 785-243-8185.

For additional information, please contact Monica Thayer, K-State Extension Agent, at 785-527-5084 or via email at mthayer@ksu.edu.

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

September is National Preparedness Month, which is an annual reminder that emergencies and disasters can happen with little warning. Whether it's severe weather, power outages, health emergencies, wildfires, or other unexpected events, taking time to prepare can help protect your family, property, finances, and peace of mind.

Preparedness doesn't have to be overwhelming. In fact, small actions taken now can make a big difference when an emergency occurs.

One of the first steps is creating or reviewing an emergency plan. Families should discuss how they will communicate if separated during an emergency, where they will meet if they need to evacuate, and who serves as an emergency contact outside the area. Make sure all family members know important phone numbers and understand the plan.

Another important step is assembling an emergency supply kit. Basic supplies may include:

- Water and nonperishable food
- Medications and first-aid supplies
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Cell phone chargers and backup power sources
- Important personal and hygiene items
- Supplies for pets

Preparedness also includes staying informed. Sign up for local emergency alerts, monitor weather forecasts, and know the risks most common in your community. Understanding potential hazards before they occur allows you to respond more confidently if an emergency develops.

Financial preparedness is another important consideration. Keep copies of important documents, such as insurance policies, identification, medical information, and financial records, in a secure location. Having easy access to these documents can help speed recovery after a disaster. It is also wise to review insurance coverage periodically to ensure it meets your family's current needs.

For older adults, individuals with disabilities, and those with medical needs, additional planning may be necessary. Consider backup plans for medications, medical equipment, transportation, and caregiving support.

Preparedness is not only an individual responsibility. Neighbors, friends, faith communities, and local organizations all play important roles during emergencies. Check on vulnerable neighbors, discuss plans with family members, and learn about community resources available during disasters.

National Preparedness Month serves as a reminder that

preparedness is an ongoing process rather than a one-time event. This September, take a few minutes to update your plans, review your supplies, and identify areas where your household can become more resilient. The time invested today can make a meaningful difference when unexpected challenges arise tomorrow.

MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTS 101

If you're enrolled in Medicare or approaching Medicare eligibility, you may have heard about Medicare Supplement plans, also known as Medigap plans. Understanding how these plans work can help you make informed decisions about your healthcare coverage and costs.

Our Medicare Supplements 101 course is designed to help participants better understand Medicare Supplement insurance, the role it can play in covering out-of-pocket healthcare expenses, and the process of obtaining coverage. Participants will learn how Medicare Supplement plans work alongside Original Medicare, when enrollment opportunities are available, and important factors to consider when comparing plans.

Whether you are new to Medicare or simply reviewing your current coverage, Medicare Supplements 101 can help you become a more informed healthcare consumer and make confident decisions about your coverage options.

To make attendance convenient, the class will be offered at multiple locations throughout the River Valley Extension District. You only need to attend the session that works best for your schedule.

Upcoming Sessions:

- **Thursday, October 8, at 2:00 pm** – Washington Public Library, 116 E 2nd Street, Washington
- **Tuesday, October 13, at 2:00 pm** - Cloud County Co-op Distribution Center Meeting Room, 1401 E. 6th Street, Concordia
- **Wednesday, October 14, at 10:00 am** - Belleville Public Library, 1327 19th Street, Belleville
- **Wednesday, October 14, at 10:00 am** – 4-H Conference Room, 213 S. 12th Street, Clay Center

To register, please contact any River Valley Extension District office:

- Belleville: 785-527-5084
- Clay Center: 785-632-5335
- Concordia: 785-243-8185
- Washington: 785-325-2121

For more information about Medicare or upcoming educational programs, contact Extension Agents Monica Thayer at 785-527-5084 or Jordan Schuette at 785-325-2121.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2026 FALL FLING!

Mark your calendars for the 2026 Fall Fling on Monday, October 12, 2026, at the Zoo Conference Room located at Clay Center Utility Park and Zoo, South 4th St. & Pomeroy St. The day will feature two educational presentations and a salad luncheon potluck, offering a great opportunity to learn, connect, and enjoy fellowship with others.

Additional details will be shared soon and included in the October Extension Newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact Monica Thayer at 785-527-5084 or Jordan Schuette at 785-325-2121. We look forward to seeing you there!

SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS

Every September, communities across the nation come together to raise awareness about suicide prevention, honor those lost, support survivors, and promote resources that can save lives. Mental health challenges can affect anyone—regardless of age, background, or circumstance—and reaching out for help is a sign of strength, not weakness.

One critical resource is the **988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline**. By calling or texting **988**, or using the webchat at **988lifeline.org**, individuals in distress—or those concerned about someone else—can connect 24/7 with trained crisis counselors. The service is free, confidential, and available to anyone in the United States.

If you or someone you know is struggling with thoughts of suicide, mental health challenges, or substance use crisis, remember: help is only three numbers away—**988**. Together, we can break the stigma, offer hope, and save lives!

SPIDER MITES

If your plants are looking stressed during the heat of late summer, spider mites may be to blame. These tiny pests are a common problem in Kansas landscapes and gardens, especially during hot, dry weather.

Spider mites feed on a wide variety of plants. Because they are so small, infestations often go unnoticed until damage becomes visible. Spider mites feed primarily on the undersides of leaves by piercing plant cells and sucking out their contents. Their feeding causes leaves to appear yellowed, faded, or speckled. Heavy infestations can cause leaves to turn brown, dry up, and eventually die. One of the easiest ways to detect spider mites is the "white paper test." Hold a sheet of white paper beneath a branch or leaf and tap it firmly. If spider mites are present, they will fall onto the paper and appear as tiny moving specks, usually red in color.

Fortunately, homeowners have several effective management options. A strong spray of water directed at both the tops and undersides of leaves can knock mites off plants and reduce small populations. During hot, dry weather, spraying plants twice per week can help keep mites under control. For moderate infestations, horticultural oils and insecticidal soaps can be effective. These products work by contacting the mites directly and can suppress eggs, immature stages, and adults. Thorough coverage is essential, especially on the undersides of leaves where mites tend to congregate. Because some mites or eggs may escape the first application, follow-up treatments three to four days later are often needed for the best control.

For severe infestations, products specifically labeled for spider mite control (miticides/acaricides) are often more effective than general insecticides. Thorough coverage, particularly on the undersides of leaves, is critical for success. Always follow label directions and confirm the product is labeled for the plant being treated.

Regular monitoring and early intervention are key to preventing severe damage. By catching spider mites early and taking prompt action, you can help keep your landscape and garden plants healthy as we finish out the growing season.

FALL GARDENING WORKSHOP

As the growing season begins to wind down, it's the perfect time to think about how you can make the most of your garden this fall! The River Valley Extension District is partnering with the Clay County Conservation District to offer a Fall Workshop. This program is designed to help gardeners make the most of the cooler months and prepare their soil for the seasons ahead.

During the workshop, participants will learn about several ways to extend the gardening season and improve garden health, including:

Fall Garden Crops: Discover which vegetables and other crops can thrive in the cooler temperatures of fall, along with tips for getting them established and producing a successful harvest.

Cover Crops: Learn how cover crops can benefit your garden and soil by helping reduce erosion, suppress weeds, add organic matter, improve soil health, and support beneficial soil organisms.

Vermicomposting: Learn how to turn kitchen scraps and other organic materials into a valuable soil amendment with the help of worms. Vermicomposting is the process of using earthworms and microorganisms to break down organic material into a nutrient-rich product called vermicompost, which can be added to gardens to improve soil health and provide nutrients for plants.

Whether you're an experienced gardener or just getting started, this workshop will provide practical information and demonstrations you can use in your own garden.

Join us on **Tuesday, September 8th from 6:00-7:15 pm** as we learn, grow, and get our gardens ready for fall! This event will be held at the Clay County Health Department & Community Garden, located at 820 Spellman Circle in Clay Center. **A light supper will be provided, so please RSVP to the Clay County Conservation District at 785-630-3514 or via email at cc.conservationdist@gmail.com.**

We hope to see you there!

HORTICULTURE RESEARCH CENTER

In August, several horticulture agents attended an open house at the John C. Pair Center in Haysville, Kansas. This horticulture research center conducts a variety of trials to evaluate plants and landscape practices under Kansas growing conditions. Here is a recap of some of the trials that caught our attention.

The **annual flower trial** featured new varieties grown with minimal irrigation in full sun. The plants are observed throughout the summer to determine which varieties perform well enough to potentially be introduced into garden centers the following spring.

A **lawn seed trial** compared several new and existing grass varieties. The labeled plots made it easy to see differences in appearance and performance, including how well each variety tolerated the late-summer heat.

One of the most interesting trials focused on **landscape irrigation**. Plants were grown with four different irrigation levels: rainfall only, low, medium, and high. It was fascinating to see that some drought-tolerant native plants actually performed better with low irrigation than with high irrigation. This is a great visual reminder of the importance of the "right plant, right place" concept—choosing plants that match the conditions of your landscape and your ability to provide water.

The final trial examined **different mulch materials and amounts** for weed suppression. Materials included cypress, pine bark, pine straw, and rock. The trial provided a great comparison of the advantages and disadvantages of different mulch options, including organic mulches versus rock.

Overall, the open house was a great opportunity to see horticulture research in action and learn how these trials can help us make better choices for Kansas landscapes.

Want to learn more? For additional information on the John C. Pair Center or research data from any of these projects, contact Brooke Ohlde at 785-541-0990 or brooke6@ksu.edu.

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“2026 UP-COMING MEETINGS & EVENTS”**

DATE	TIME	PROGRAM	LOCATION
Sept. 2	12-1pm	Garden Hour: “Divide & Transplant Like A Pro”	*See the link below
Sept. 3	6pm	“Money Habitudes”	Cloud Co. Community College Library
Sept. 8	6-7:15pm	Fall Gardening Workshop	Clay Center- 820 Spellman Circle
Sept. 10	9-Noon	Waterbath Canning With Confidence	Belleville-Unite4d Meth. Church-2313 M
Sept. 10	6pm	“Income & Expenses”	Cloud Co. Community College Library
Sept. 10	6pm	Medicare Basics	Washington-Hospital, 304 E. 3rd St.
Sept. 17	11am	WITS Workout- “Slumber Party”	Washington Public Library-116 E. 2nd
Sept. 23	11:30am	WITS Workout- “Comforts of Home”	Concordia- Senior Center, 109 W. 7th St.
Sept. 23	2pm	WITS Workout- “The World Over”	Belleville- Library, 1327 19th Street
Sept. 24	9:30am	Beef Stocker Day	Manhattan- 4330 Marlatt Ave.
Sept. 24	6pm	“Savings”	Cloud Co. Community College Library
Sept. 26	3pm	Reviewing Medicare	Clay Center- Carnegie Library, 706 6th St.
Sept. 28	6pm	Young Tree Care	Clyde-Arboretum 117-123 Washington St.
Oct. 1	6pm	“Debt & Credit”	Cloud Co. Community College Library
Oct. 2	10am	“From Bulb to Bloom”	Clay Center-Rex Theatre, 519 Court St.
Oct. 6	3pm	“From Bulb to Bloom”	Washington- Library, 116 E. 2nd St.
Oct. 7	12-1pm	Garden Hour- “Groundcovers For Kansas”	*See the link below
Oct. 8	2pm	Medicare Supplements 101	Washington- Library, 116 E. 2nd St.
Oct. 12		2026 Fall Fling	Clay Center-Utility Zoo Conference Room
Oct. 13	TBD	“From Bulb to Bloom”	Concordia-Brown Grand Theatre, 310 W. 6th
Oct. 13	2pm	Medicare Supplements 101	Concordia-Coop Mfg. Room, 1401 E. 6th St.
Oct. 14	10am	Medicare Supplements 101	Belleville- Library, 1327 19th St.
Oct. 14	10am	Medicare Supplements 101	Clay Center- Fairgrounds, 4-H Conf. Room

Garden Hour link: <https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/consumer-horticulture/garden-hour/>

K-State Research and Extension 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, or a dietary restriction please contact the Belleville office at 785-527-5084, the Clay Center office at 785-632-5335, the Concordia office at 785-243-8185, or the Washington office at 785-325-2121.