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River Valley District

K-State Research and Extension News

*Knowledge
for Life*

**April 2016
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**River Valley
Extension District
Master Gardeners**

Spring Field Day Brighten Up Your Landscape



Sunday, April 24
1:30—3:30 p.m.
4-H Building, Fairgrounds
Belleville, Kansas

Programs Will Include:

- ◆ New Plants for 2016
- ◆ How to design your flowerbeds
- ◆ Gardening Ideas to do with Kids

**Brooke Stamm with Loma Vista Nursery will be talking
about new and exciting plants for 2016**

**Master Gardeners will be selling refreshments
Plant Exchange; bring something to trade**

Polansky Seed will have a booth and be selling Spring bedding plants



This is a **FREE** educational event sponsored by the
K-State Research & Extension River Valley District Master Gardeners
and the Public is invited to attend.

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

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DON'T HAVE AN UDDER DISASTER, FIX YOUR FENCE!

As the weather is changing and the days are getting longer, producers cannot help but think of everything that needs to be done in the upcoming months. The majority of readers are not only cattle producers but also row crop farmers. We are only days away from preparing the ground for planting season. While there are plenty of things to accomplish by that time, we cannot forget about our cattle and the fencing needed to keep the ornery critters inside their boundaries.

I remember getting those phone calls from the neighbors growing up saying, "Your cattle are out". Now, let's be honest for a second. Do we ever get that phone call when it is convenient? I think I can speak for all of us and say that this phone call rarely happens when we are at home sitting in our easy chair. Just in case you were lucky enough to be sitting in the easy chair, then it was probably after a long day's work and the last thing you want to do is chase cattle in the dark. I dare to even bring up the topic of fencing as it is not a producer's favorite topic or activity to do in their free time. As a matter of fact, some hate fixing fence so much that they would rather hire someone else to do it for them. The big question is how much is that fence builder ultimately worth by industry standards in Kansas? Luckily, we have two people at Kansas State University who put together the 2015 Fence Material and Construction Cost Survey in Kansas to assist us with some of these questions. Even if you build your own fence, this can be very helpful to know what the current prices are for the various equipment used to build fence. This article will briefly highlight some key points from this fencing publication.

We will start out by addressing the average fence construction cost. Hedge corner posts on average have increased from \$25.92 in 2010 to \$35.89 in 2015. This is a 38% increase in cost and is a number that should be noted. Steel posts have done the opposite and decreased in value from \$3.92 in 2010 to \$3.81 in 2015, which is a 2.81% decrease in cost. The good news is that barbed wire has only increased in cost by \$4 going from \$64.23 to \$68.26 per 80-rod roll of two-point barb. When looking at total material cost by district, quarter section, square pasture, the north central region 5-wire barb with 3 steel and 1 wood post type with 15 foot post spacing cost \$7,986.60. In general, total material costs in 2015 was higher than the corresponding number in 2010. Total material cost by district is available by referring to the 2015 Fence Material and Construction Cost Survey in Kansas. So, let's recap and put this into simple terms in a table that is quick and easy to refer to:

	2010	2015	%Change
Hedge/Corner Post:	\$ 25.92	\$ 35.89	+ 38.46%
Steel Post (5.5FT, 1.25 LB/FT):	\$ 3.92	\$ 3.81	- 2.81%
Barbed Wire:	\$ 64.23	\$ 68.26	+ 6.25%

Whether you are building your own fence or you are hiring someone else, this is always good information to have in front of you. It is a great starting place to begin talking to fence contractors on price and knowing upfront what material costs will be. As the weather gets warmer and the days get longer, step back from the fence post and enjoy the beautiful scenery across the pasture. At the end of the day, we are all doing what we love and enjoy with every fence post driven into the ground. If you have additional questions on fencing please contact Katelyn Brockus, River Valley Extension Livestock Agent, at 785-325-2121 or kbrockus@ksu.edu.

MANURE IS VALUABLE

It is important to know how and why manure is valuable in your operation. What things benefit most from manure application? What time point should farmers be applying manure? For the sake of space, we are only going to talk about applying manure before seeding alfalfa. This might seem counterproductive as alfalfa is not likely to benefit from the nitrogen content in the manure. On the other hand, manure is rich in phosphorous, potassium, sulfur, and many micronutrients which are helpful to a plentiful stand of alfalfa.

Research on this topic shows that applying as much as 12,000 gallons or 50 tons of dry manure per acre before planting alfalfa can boost alfalfa yield more than commercial fertilizers at the same nutrient levels. Manure also has the ability to increase yield on both low and high fertility soils. It has been shown that some commercial fertilizers do not always work with higher fertility soils. It is a possibility that improved soil tilth, increased soil microbial activity, micronutrients, and early nitrogen availability could be the reason manure increases alfalfa yield.

With every positive, there is always a negative. Heavy manure application is not always in the producer's favor. It is not suggested to heavily apply manure prior to alfalfa seeding if you also plant a companion crop like oats that you plan to harvest for grain. This could cause smothering to the alfalfa unless the companion crop is cut early for hay.

As always, we encourage farmers to use a soil test and a manure test to determine the application rate. It is recommended to mix the manure well into the soil using tillage while making sure to prepare a firm seedbed so new alfalfa seedlings will emerge. It is also important to remember that spreading manure can also stimulate weed growth. Make sure that proper timing of seeding is carried out, firm seed beds, and herbicide usage to control weed pressure.

So, when you are looking for a place to spread the extra manure from a long winter, consider applying a heavy dose before planting alfalfa. The better the alfalfa stand, the more forage availability for your cattle in the future. If you would like more information on application rate then contact Katelyn at the Washington office.

IMPORTANT FACTORS DETERMINING FREEZE DAMAGE IN WHEAT

There are a number of key factors in determining freeze damage: the stage of development of the wheat, the density of the stand and condition of the plants, the amount of residue on the soil surface, the extent and duration of low temperatures, temperature gradients within the field, soil moisture, and the wind speed.

Stage of development.

-- Greenup. Wheat that hasn't started to joint yet might suffer damage to the existing foliage, but the growing points will be protected by the soil and should escape injury. This wheat will have cosmetic damage to the leaves that will show up almost immediately.

-- Jointing wheat can usually tolerate temperatures in the mid to upper 20's with no significant injury. But, if temperatures fall into the low 20's or even lower for several hours, the lower stems, leaves, or developing head can sustain injury.

Density of the stand and condition of the plants. If the stand is thick, that will tend to reduce the extent of freeze damage as the warmth of the soil will radiate up into the canopy. On the other hand, well-fertilized succulent wheat has often sustained more freeze injury than wheat that is not as well fertilized. Thin stands are at higher risk of injury because the air can penetrate the stand more easily. If the plants were wet before the freeze, this can result in a coat of ice on the plants that may protect the growing point to some extent. If temperatures get too low, however, the cold will go through the ice.

Residue. Many times we see more freeze damage in no-till fields because the residue acts as a blanket and doesn't allow the heat from the soil to radiate up into the plant canopy.

Extent and duration of low temperatures. Significant injury becomes much more likely if the temperatures in the damaging range last for two hours or longer.

Soil moisture. There is often less freeze injury at a given temperature when soils are wet than when dry. Wetter soils tend to radiate a little more warmth than dry soils.

Wind speed. Windy conditions during the nighttime hours when temperatures reach their lows will reduce the amount of warmth radiating from the soil and increase the chance of injury.

Temperature gradients within the field. Low spots in the field are almost always the first to have freeze injury. The coldest air tends to settle in the low areas, especially under calm wind conditions.

Injury symptoms

There are many possible scenarios after a freeze, and things do not always go according to "the book." Just keep watching your fields closely over the next 7 to 10 days for the following:

- The color of newly emerging leaves. If they are nice and green, that probably indicates the tiller is alive. If newly emerging leaves are yellow, that probably indicates the tiller is dead. The color of existing leaves is not terribly important, except for the flag leaf. Existing leaves will

- almost always turn bluish-black after a hard freeze, and give off a silage odor. Those leaves are burned back and dead, but that in itself is not a problem as long as newly emerging leaves are green.
- The color of the developing head or growing point in wheat that has jointed. As long as heads are light green and turgid, the head in that tiller is fine. If the head is whitish and flaccid, it has died.
- Ice in the stems. If there was ice in the stems below the first node the morning of the freeze, those tillers may be damaged (although not always) and may not produce grain. You may see split stems from ice accumulation.
- The integrity of the stem. If the wheat lodged immediately after the freeze, that indicates stem damage. Later tillers may eventually cover the damaged tillers. Even if there is no immediate lodging, look for lesions or crimps anywhere on the stems. If you see that, it usually means the wheat will lodge at some point during the season. If the stems look undamaged, that's a good sign.

The best thing producers can do for the first few days is simply walk the fields to observe lodging, crimped stems, and damaged leaves. Be patient. Do not take any immediate actions as a result of the freeze, such as destroying the field for recropping. It will take several days of warm weather to accurately evaluate the extent of damage. After several days, producers should split open some stems and check the developing head.

Where stems and/or growing points were killed by the freeze, start looking for new tiller growth coming from the crown area. In fact, look for new tiller growth even if you think the stems look okay. Sometimes tillers can be killed but will not show any symptoms for quite a while. In those cases, the first sign that the tillers are dead is the sudden growth of new tillers at the base of the plant.

If secondary tillers may begin growing normally and fill out the stand, the wheat may look ragged because the main tillers are absent. Watch out for bird cherry oat aphids and other potential insect or disease problems on these late-developing tillers. Enough tillers may survive to produce good yields (if spring growing conditions are good). If both the main and secondary tillers are injured, the field may eventually have large areas that have a yellowish cast and reduced yield potential.

MINIMUM SOIL TEMPERATURES FOR PLANTING ARE:

Corn	50 degrees F
Soybeans	55-60 degrees F
Grain Sorghum	65-70 degrees F

Soil temperature should be at a minimum temperature or above for at least 2 or 3 days prior to planting in the spring for good, uniform germination. Check soil temperature at a 2 inch depth between 10:00 a.m. and noon. Temperatures below the optimum can cause seeds to sit dormant and become more vulnerable to diseases, insects, and animal predators.

CONTROLLING PIGWEEDS IN SOYBEANS

Why is pigweed pressure heavier now than it has been in past years? Increasing pigweed pressure in soybeans has been the trend in Kansas over the past 10 years or so, increasing a bit overall every year. Last year pigweed pressure took a big step up.

There are two main reasons for what is happening:

1. Glyphosate resistance is spreading. More populations of Palmer amaranth and waterhemp are now resistant to glyphosate. Waterhemp populations have been resistant to glyphosate for several years. Glyphosate resistance in Palmer amaranth has been a more recent occurrence, and resistant populations are now increasing rapidly within the state.

2. Untimely applications. As a result of both the wet soils and the delayed planting last year, the effectiveness of EPP (early preplant) herbicides had worn off by the time the beans were planted. Pigweeds began emerging in some cases before the beans could be planted. Then when the soils dried out enough to plant beans, producers had to hurry their operations and may not have had time to apply burndown or preemergence residual herbicides.

Producers who are still trying to rely primarily on postemergence herbicides to control pigweeds are having an increasingly hard time getting good control. It used to be that glyphosate would provide 95% or more control of both waterhemp and Palmer amaranth even if those weeds were a foot tall or more. But now, glyphosate provides poor control of pigweeds on many fields in Kansas.

There are other options for postemergence control, but most of those options require that the weeds be less than 3 to 4 inches tall for good control. That means producers have to watch their fields closely early in the season and spray the weeds when they first see them emerging. That's an entirely different mindset than just a few years ago when glyphosate was more consistently effective on pigweeds. Both waterhemp and Palmer amaranth grow very quickly once they have emerged, and can quickly get too tall for good control with postemergence herbicides – if they are glyphosate-resistant. If these weeds get to be a foot tall or more, postemergence herbicide alternatives to glyphosate often just burn back the tops of the weeds but will not kill them.

Consequently, a good residual herbicide program in the spring will likely be important for pigweed management in the future, regardless of the postemergence program. Where glyphosate-resistant pigweeds have become a problem, producers may want to consider Liberty Link or conventional soybeans. However, even these soybean varieties will need to be part of a planned program that utilizes residual herbicides and timely applications. Timely applications and higher spray volumes that can provide good thorough coverage of the weeds is very important for the postemergence herbicide options currently available for pigweed control in soybeans.

There are new varieties of soybeans coming in the future with resistance to 2,4-D (Enlist) or dicamba (Xtend). However, these options also work best in a program approach using residual herbicides and timely postemergence applications. In

tests at K-State, a tankmix of glyphosate+2,4-D or glyphosate+dicamba still had problems controlling 6-inch-tall Palmer amaranth this summer. It will still be important to apply these postemergence herbicides on small weeds to get good control.

The best approach to good pigweed control in no-till is to start with a two-pass program early. Apply EPP residual herbicides at a two-thirds rate in mid- to late-April, then follow up with rest of the residual herbicide at planting. If pigweeds are emerged at planting time, it will be important to include a burndown herbicide to control those weeds as well. If you want to rely strictly on a single EPP treatment, be sure to include an adequate rate of a residual herbicide product in the mix.

Be ready to apply any needed postemergence herbicides early, before weeds get to be 3 to 4 inches tall. On fields with heavy pigweed pressure, you may want to add additional residual herbicides to the postemergence treatment. (Dallas Peterson)

BUTTERFLY GARDENING

What could bring more joy than a beautiful butterfly fluttering around your garden? While butterfly gardening is becoming more popular in Kansas, you need to make sure you're providing for the basic needs of butterflies, such as food, shelter and liquids. Having some aspect of all three of these will encourage butterflies to visit this summer.

There are a number of plants that attract butterflies. However, different species of butterflies prefer different plants. So if you are trying to attract a certain species of butterfly, learn which plant(s) that butterfly prefers, and then emphasize that plant in your garden. Using a variety of plant materials that bloom at different times of the year will help attract a diverse group of butterflies. Large groups of the same plant material are easier for butterflies to find. Single plantings are often difficult for a butterfly to detect. Below are lists of annuals, perennials, and shrubs that will attract butterflies to your garden.

Annuals that attract butterflies include: ageratum, cosmos, French marigold, petunia, verbena and zinnia.

Perennials and shrubs can be split into those that bloom early, mid-season and late. Good choices for those that bloom early are allium, chives, forget-me-not and lilac. Mid-season bloomers include Bee balm, butterfly bush, black-eyed Susan, buttonbush, butterfly weed, daisy, daylily, gaillardia, lavender, lily, mint, phlox, privet, sunflower and veronica. Late bloomers include aster, glossy abelia and sedum.

It's a good idea to put a few flat stones in sunny spots in your garden, butterflies will rest and warm themselves in the sun on the rocks. Be sure to have a couple in the shade too, so they can cool off when the sun is too intense.

Butterflies also need water. A simple way to make a butterfly pool is to take a bucket, fill it with gravel, and bury it to the rim. Now add water, sugar water or sweet drinks to the bucket, but don't cover the gravel completely with liquid. You want the butterflies to be able to land on the gravel and still be able to reach the liquid.

If you follow these few steps when planning your butterfly gardens, you should have butterflies to watch and enjoy throughout the season.

Women in Agriculture



Ladies Night Out!



April 11th at 6:00 p.m.

Clyde School Apartments Meeting Room
620 Broadway, Clyde, KS

Cupcakes will be served for refreshments!



Free educational/networking event for ALL women involved in agriculture!

Speaker: Dr. Dan Thomson is a third-generation bovine veterinarian and is an internationally recognized expert and leader in beef cattle production and health management. He is the Jones professor of production medicine and epidemiology and director of the Beef Cattle Institute at K-State University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Thomson's research and outreach has been reported in national media outlets, including "CBS Evening News," USA Today, Los Angeles Times, the New York Times and many others. He hosts a nationally aired veterinary television show, "Doc Talk," that reaches more than 45 million homes worldwide.

Pre-register by April 7th
For **Registration** Contact
River Valley Extension
District
Concordia Office
785-243-8185
Or by emailing ag agents,
Kim Larson,
kclarson@ksu.edu or
Katelyn Brockus,
kbrockus@ksu.edu



River Valley Extension District Women in Agriculture

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2016 LAUNCH A BUSINESS PROGRAM

A small business in your community may benefit from an exciting opportunity at K-State. Could it be yours?

Kansas State University is seeking applications from Kansas-based startups to participate in its third annual K-State Launch a Business program, powered by KS State Bank. Known as LAB, the program, which provides entrepreneurs much-needed resources including faculty-led courses, hands-on student research teams and access to the world-class Kansas State University alumni mentor network, is specifically intended for early-stage companies. It is designed to provide the building blocks for turning a concept into a successful venture.

As many as 20 high-potential startup ventures or concepts will be selected to participate in the Lab program, including up to 10 companies from global food systems industries. "The LAB program allows us to share our expertise with the community," said Chad Jackson, director of the university's Center for the Advancement of Entrepreneurship in the College of Business Administration. "Our faculty, alumni, and students are incredible resources, and we are excited to ask them to volunteer to support the next great startup ventures. We are grateful to KS State Bank for making this possible." Kansas-based startup founders with scalable, for-profit businesses or ideas are invited to apply until 5 p.m. Monday, April 11. Criteria for selection include identifying a real problem and an innovative solution, demonstrating the drive to succeed, the ability to incorporate feedback, and showing commitment to the idea and the Launch a Business program. The program will take place from May 26 to June 23. Program organizers invite all alumni and supporters of Kansas State University and the regional startup ecosystem to mark their calendars for a closing celebration on June 23. The event will feature presentations from all Launch a Business participants.

Startups are not charged to participate in the Launch a Business program. More details, including the online application form, can be found at: <http://www.k-state.edu/lab/>

KANSAS AGRABILITY PROJECT

The Kansas AgrAbility Project assists people with disabilities who work in agriculture. The vision of AgrAbility is to enable a high quality lifestyle for farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural workers with disabilities. While the term "disability" often brings to mind conditions such as spinal cord injuries and amputations, AgrAbility addresses these and many other conditions, such as arthritis, chronic back pain, and behavioral health issues. Through education and assistance, AgrAbility helps eliminate or at least minimize obstacles that inhibit success in production agriculture or agriculture-related occupations.

AgrAbility is funded by the USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) with Kansas partners: K-State, Southeast Kansas Independent Living (SKIL), and Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK). Call at **1-800-526-3648**.

BOARD MEMBERS: MAKE A QUORUM OR MAKE A DIFFERENCE

If we think about it, we have a small part of our personal life that we are "in charge" of and much of the rest of what affects our lives lies in the hands of the various boards throughout the community. My water supply comes from a Rural Water District governed by a board. My church has a council. My library has a board. My fire protection is run by a volunteer board. My bank has a board of directors. My employer, the River Valley Extension District, has a board. The list goes on!

Bill Riley, former director of the Kansas 4-H Foundation says it well when he states that: "Non-profits have three resources: people, time, and money and we never have enough of any of these. Therefore it is our job as a board member to make the best effort to make good things happen with the resources that we have." Wow! That is powerful food for thought in every aspect of our daily lives.

As board members, we have a choice. We can simply show up and make a quorum, or we can influence a change by making our best effort to utilize our resources in a positive way. The following are "15 Tasks for Board Members" that were recently shared as a part of our Board Leadership Series and that I have expanded upon from Mr. Riley's comments.

- 1) Know the mission, purpose, policies, projects, and services of the organization. Work together as a board to set deliberate targets for success, a timeline to achieve those targets, and the tools to measure the level of success.
- 2) Serve in leadership positions and accept special roles.
- 3) Be aware of issues affecting the community served by the board and bring those issues forward.
- 4) Prepare for and participate in board and committee meetings as well as projects and events of the organization.
- 5) Ask timely and substantive questions at meetings of the board and committees. Maintain your convictions but support the majority decision.
- 6) Know the open meetings requirements and maintain the confidentiality of information that might be proprietary or that was a part of an executive session.
- 7) Suggest agenda items related to policies as appropriate.
- 8) Give counsel to staff members as appropriate.
- 9) Serve the community as a whole rather than any one specific constituency.
- 10) Avoid asking for special favors as a board member and avoid even the slightest appearance of conflict of interest.
- 11) Identify yourself as a board member of the organization at other meetings and events.
- 12) Maintain independence and objectivity, and do what a sense of personal integrity and fairness require of you.
- 13) Ensure the sustainability of the organization by studying the financial statements, minutes, and correspondence. Assist in fundraising and membership drives.
- 14) Bring enthusiasm, pride, and a sense of humor to the meetings and deliberations.
- 15) Implement deliberate strategies to identify, recruit, orientate, and assimilate new board members.



Barbecue 101 is a one day workshop focusing on teaching the basics of grilling and smoking to consumers of all ages and experience levels.

The topic areas will provide a unique perspective on the science of barbecuing as well as give insight to selecting meat, wood, rubs, spices and sauces to use at your next barbecue.

This workshop is conducted by the Kansas State University Department of Animal Science and Industry and K-State Research and Extension.

For questions: Dr. Travis O'Quinn; travisquinn@ksu.edu

To register: Lois Schreiner; lschrein@ksu.edu

2nd Annual BBQ 101 Workshop—Schedule of Events

8:00 Welcome

8:15 Meat Cutting Basics

9:15 All About Rubs & Spices

9:45 Break

10:00 BBQ Food Safety

10:30 Science of Smoking



11:30 Lunch

12:30-2:30 Afternoon Station Rotations

- Selecting the Right Smoker for You
- BBQ Regionality: A Difference in Sauce
- Meat Cuts to Stretch the BBQ Dollar
- Taste the Difference: It's All in the Wood

3:00 Competition BBQ Expert Roundtable

3:30 Closing & Evaluations

Registration Information

Registration is \$50 for an individual or \$80 for a couple. Registration closes one week prior to each scheduled event. Registration fee includes lunch, apron and Barbecue 101 Course Book containing cooking guides, recipes and barbecue tips and tricks. Space is limited at each location.

Register Now: www.asi.k-state.edu/barbecue101workshop.html

Locations

April 30, 2016

Iola, KS

Community Building

510 Park Avenue

(at Riverside Park in Iola)

May 21, 2016

Holton, KS

Northeast Kansas

Heritage Complex

214th and P

June 4, 2016

Washington, KS

First National Bank

101 C Street

June 25, 2016

Wichita, KS

Sedgwick County

Extension Office

7001 W 21st St. N

BBQ 101 Registration closes 1 week prior to each scheduled event

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ E-mail: _____

Location attending: _____ Iola _____ Holton _____ Washington _____ Wichita

_____ number individuals @ \$50 each _____ number couple @ \$80 per couple

Mail to: Lois Schreiner, BBQ 101, 218 Weber Hall, 1424 Claflin Road, Manhattan, KS 66506

Please make checks payable to: Kansas State University

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

DATE	TIME	PROGRAM	LOCATION
March 11-April 8	10-11:30am	(Fridays) Powerful Tools For Caregivers	Astra Bank Meeting Room Belleville
April 3-May 28		Walk Kansas	State-wide Program
April 11	6pm	Women In Ag-Ladies Night Out	Clyde School Apts. Meeting Rm.-Clyde
April 12	2pm	10 Signs of Alzheimer’s Disease	Belleville Extension Spring Tea-Library
April 13	10am	10 Signs of Alzheimer’s Disease	Concordia Extension Spring Tea-Court-house Meeting Room
April 14	10am	10 Signs of Alzheimer’s Disease	Washington Extension Office
April 14	2pm	10 Signs of Alzheimer’s Disease	Clay Center Extension Office
April 24	1:30-3:30pm	Master Gardner Field Day	Belleville Fairgrounds-4-H Building
May 14	8:30am-4:30pm	Tractor and Machinery Safety Training	CTI John Deere-Concordia
June 4	8am-4pm	Barbecue 101	First National Bank-Washington

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