

River Valley District

K-STATE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION NEWS

rivervalley.ksu.edu

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FARM BILL INFORMATION

The ending of the 2014 Farm Bill and the anticipation and creation of a new Farm Bill are both intense concerns for River Valley District producers, as well as producers across the entire U.S. Two of the biggest topics within the Farm Bill are crop insurance and commodity programs (i.e. ARC/PLC). Luckily, crop insurance has managed to make it through into legislation relatively unchanged albeit, the talk of eliminating crop insurance was very intimidating at one time. As far as commodity programs, ARC (Agricultural Risk Coverage) and PLC (Price Loss Coverage) are still being “processed,” for lack of better terminology. Producers were typically convinced in 2014 to choose ARC (Agriculture Risk Coverage) due to the fact that the first year payment was typically higher than for PLC. The one exception was sorghum, which had a higher number of producers that chose PLC for sorghum which had a higher MYA (Marketing Year Average) price than corn.

Typically, younger and more tenacious producers chose ARC, while older, more risk-adverse producers chose Price Loss Coverage. PLC typically paid more for producers over the past few years. Granted, grain prices have fallen drastically since the initiation of the 2014 Farm Bill. When asked what a producer should choose, I like to remind producer’s that we do have a decision tool on AgManager to assist in this process. Moreover, a suggestion I have for those producers that farm ground with differing farm numbers, is to “hedge” or “offset” your decision by enrolling a portion of a given crop in PLC and a portion in ARC. Again, this can only be done on land with differing farm numbers for that given crop. More than likely, your FSA office will have more-detailed information about other considerations for the enrollment process. Listed below are a few of the proposed changes considered by either the House of Representatives or the Senate.

ARC-CO (county) yields are currently based on NASS/RMA/Committee data, however, the House is wanting to shift to utilizing RMA data first and keeping a yield update for drought-affected counties. The Senate is proposing a shift to the data source with greatest National coverage first and then creating a trend-adjusted 5-year Olympic Average (also known as a truncated average or the removal of outlying numbers).

ARC-CO (county) payments, according to the current law, are based on the administrative county but the Senate is proposing to change that to a shift to the geographic county. This is due in part to the fact that many producers on county borders may or may not have received payments when the neighbor in the other county right across the way in the neighboring county may have received a payment.

Conservation current enrollment cap is set at 24 million acres with the current law. The House is proposing to change that to 29 million acres. The Senate version expands the cap to 25 million, reduce maximum rental rate to 88.5% from 100%. Thune amendment language may be added to the Conservation programs to create separate Soil Health and Income Protection Program for short-term land retirement.

For more information, contact Tyler Husa, Crop Production Agent or Brett Melton, Livestock Production Agent in the Concordia office at (785) 243-8185 or at thusa@ksu.edu or bmelton@ksu.edu

SOIL IMPORTANCE

One of the most overlooked and often neglected resources we have, as producers, is our soil. We see those compacted areas where grain carts, trucks, or other heavy equipment go through, observing the stunted growth of our crops patterned after wheel tracks. We know that the creek bottoms are our best producing fields as a result of good topsoil being carried downstream has eroded and settled there. The precision ag operations and nutrient applications are based on the soil texture, type, health, etc. of our soils. Therefore, soil health and conservation are, and should be, top priorities of any producer for continual production of sustainable, cropping systems.

Soil is a fascinating substance. There are scientists at K-State and many other places that simply spend their lives studying the complexities and interactions of soil. One tablespoon of soil contains more living organisms than there are people on earth; hosting one-quarter of our earth's biodiversity. It is estimated that 95% of our food is either directly or indirectly produced on our soils. With a rapidly growing world population, which is sustained by our soils, it is critical that the soil we care for is nurtured and protected within our farming operations. The formation of soil is extremely slow making it a finite resource, meaning its loss and degradation is not recoverable within a human lifetime.

A common way we lose our topsoil in fields is through water erosion. Evident throughout fall harvest this October, large rain events can wash loose soil off of our fields and cut ditches through the field. This is an obvious loss to the farmer that usually gets repaired. However, slow topsoil erosion across a field can lull a farmland owner into thinking that the value of the lost soil is minimal, however, this is not the case. Rill erosion across our fields can easily cause .5-1 ton per acre soil loss each year, let alone the additional erosion caused by sheet and the dreaded, ephemeral-gully erosion. Moreover, I would like to emphasize the importance of waterway maintenance: ensuring waterways have even coverage of vegetation and that these waterways have dimensions in proper proportion to the area being drained, is a great start in prevention of ditches and optimizing the filtering efficiency within waterways. The cost of applied fertilizer nutrients carried away by soil erosion, loss of soil organic matter, the costs to apply soil amendments and higher rates of fertilizer to offset erosion losses all impact our operations. Not only does soil loss affect us now, but it affects our farm value and ability to sustain yields. It is time to remain vigilant in caring for our soils: practicing no-till/minimum-till farming, retaining residue, growing cover crops, and fixing terraces are just a few of the ways to help resolve soil loss issues.



TENTATIVELY PLANNED PROGRAMS IN THE RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT

Tentatively planned programs in the River Valley District These are “tentative” and subject to change of date and/or material covered.

Farm Bill Meeting #1

- ◇ ARC/PLC commodity programs and determining which one suits your operation
- ◇ Conservation programs
- ◇ Location and date TBD

Farm Bill Meeting #2

- ◇ ARC/PLC commodity programs and determining which one suits your operation
- ◇ Conservation programs
- ◇ Location and date TBD

RVED Crop Insurance Workshop

- ◇ Extension Specialist Art Barnaby
- ◇ Crop insurance terminologies and acronyms explained (APH, TA, YE, YA, etc)
- ◇ Which coverage should I use?
- ◇ Location TBD
- ◇ December 11, 2018

Farm Management for Tomorrow: Building and Saving Legacies

- ◇ Primary focus on transition/succession planning
- ◇ KFMA Farm Analyst Duane Hund
- ◇ Location-TBD
- ◇ February, 2019

Spring Pre-plant Workshop

- ◇ Agenda & Location TBD
- ◇ March, 2019

For any comments or questions, contact Tyler Husa, at thusa@k-state.edu or by telephone at (785) 243- 8185.

Board Leadership Series

Designed to give community-based boards affordable training necessary to be effective and efficient with their duties.

Dates: February 5, 12, 19 & 26 - 6:00 to 8:00 pm each night

Where: FNB Basement Meeting Room, Washington

For information or to register contact John Forshee at 785-632-5335 or jforshee@ksu.edu

BEEF QUALITY ASSURANCE

At this point, Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) has been around for nearly 30 years. Most people have heard of it and know what it is about, and many are BQA certified. To quote their website, “Beef Quality Assurance is a nationally coordinated, state implemented program that provides systematic information to U.S. beef producers and beef consumers of how common sense husbandry techniques can be coupled with accepted scientific knowledge to raise cattle under optimum management and environmental conditions. BQA guidelines are designed to make certain all beef consumers can take pride in what they purchase – and can trust and have confidence in the entire beef industry.”

If you aren't BQA certified, I strongly suggest taking a course to get certified. There are online courses available at www.bqa.org that are free of charge and take about two hours to complete and can be completed over a 6-month period. Often time you can find courses that are in person and take a couple hours to complete for little to no charge.

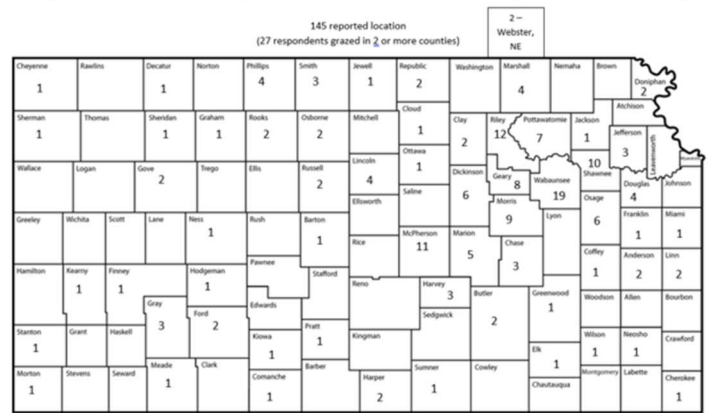
The information received in these courses is on proper vaccine protocols and injection sites, acceptable euthanasia techniques, what injured or sick animals can be shipped, preconditioning and weaning calves, and much more. When we educate ourselves on all these topics, it gives the consumers confidence that what they are consuming is safe and has been raised properly.

BQA is a voluntary program provided to producers. However, many packing plants, including U.S. Premium Beef, National Beef, and Tyson will only take animals from feedlots that are BQA certified. I believe this is due to the consumers wanting beef that is humanely and safely produced. If all guidelines for the BQA program are followed, then the consumer will be getting exactly what they want. That is a good thing for the entire beef industry. If you have any questions regarding BQA, stop by the office in Concordia, call 785-243-8185, or email bmelton@ksu.edu.

KSRE WINTER 2017-2018 CROP RESIDUE SURVEY

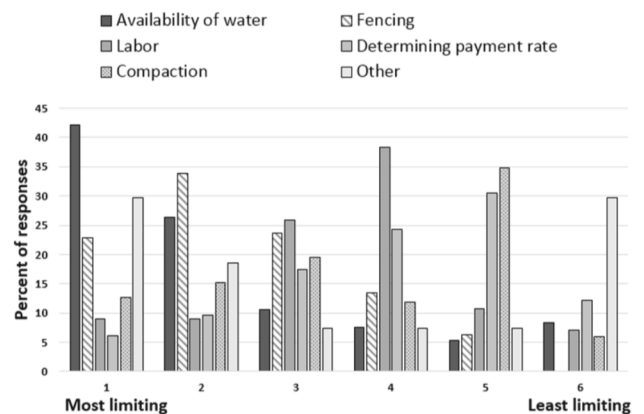
Kansas agriculture agents surveyed 180 producers from November 2017 through March of 2018 on their use of crop residue for grazing livestock. Responses came from producers that raise crops and graze their own crop residue (51%), do not have crop ground but rent or lease crop residue to graze (22%), grow crops and do not let livestock graze residue (17%) and raise crops and sometimes rent crop residue for grazing (9%). Crops raised included 56% corn, 60% soybeans, 35% milo and 34% alfalfa. Corn was the most common crop available for grazing (55%) followed by hay regrowth (47%), milo (35%), alfalfa (30%) and soybeans (30%). A majority of responses were from east central Kansas as shown in Figure 1. Location of grazing was provided in 145 responses, 27 respondents reported grazing crop residue in 2 or more counties.

Figure 1. Number of Crop Residue Surveys Reported by County of Grazing



If a fee was associated with grazing, 55% indicated they used a dollar per acre charge and 45% used a dollar per head value. When given on a dollar per acre basis (n=25), responses for a reasonable price for grazing crop residue ranged from \$4 to \$50. The highest value was provided by a producer that did not allow crop residue grazing. If calculated on a per head per day basis (n=26), values ranged from \$0.11 to \$1 hd/day. Several comments pointed out that pricing negotiations included considerations of need and provider of fence and water in addition to amount of residue and downed grain. When considering all responses, the availability of water was the most important factor determining if crop residue grazing took place (Figure 2). If only responses from those that grew crops but did not let livestock graze residue were considered, fencing was the most important factor followed by availability of water and then compaction.

Figure 2. Rank the following factors as they impact the use or not of crop residue grazing in your operation, with 1 being the most limiting factor.



Additional comments made from respondents pointed to several benefits of grazing: reduce volunteer roundup ready corn; cattle consume leaves that otherwise blow off the field; manure and urine are left on the field after grazing. Sincere appreciation is expressed to the producers that took the time to contribute to this effort and the extension agents that encouraged them to do so. by [Sandy Johnson](#), extension beef specialist, Colby, KS; and [Dale Blasi](#), stocker, forages nutrition & management specialist

WINTER COW MANAGEMENT

Now is the time of year when cattle are grazing crop residues and farm equipment is put away for the winter. Cows that are set to calve on March 1st are moving into their third trimester. This means the nutrient requirement of these cows will go up immensely. The growth of the fetus is exponential until the time of calving. Each day of fetal growth will be greater than the day before – until calving. A complication can be increasing and maintaining their energy as the temperatures drop. More energy is needed for the cows to maintain body condition.

To put this into perspective, let's say we have a moderate sized, open, non-lactating cow. This cow will need to have approximately 8.5 mega-calories/day (1 mega-calorie = 1000 calories) just to maintain her



body condition. This is also assuming she is in a comfortable environment. If that cow is eight months pregnant, she could need another 3.5 mega-calories/day. In the weeks before calving, this cow will need more than five mega-calories than if she were not pregnant. That is almost 60% more energy needed to grow the fetus into a live calf.

Studies have shown underfeeding cows and heifers during late pregnancy will result in longer intervals between calving and rebreeding, lower milk production, and decreased calf weaning weight. These effects are even more pronounced in heifers compared to cows. There is also research to suggest there is decreased passive immunity to calves in cows that have had inadequate nutrition during the late stages of pregnancy. Passive immunity is acquired by the calf via colostrum and is important early in the calf's life to fight off infections. It is thought the inadequate nutrition in the late stages of pregnancy hinders the cow's ability to make immunoglobins, or the calf is unable to absorb the immunoglobins.

With these increased energy requirements for cows during the winter, it is important to know if cows are getting enough nutrients, so we can avoid the negative impacts caused by underfeeding. If your cows are grazing crop residue, then it is difficult to know if their nutritional needs are being met. This is why making notes on the cows' body condition score before grazing is a good idea. If the average body condition score of the herd is maintaining or increasing, then it would be fair to say energy needs are being met. If the body condition scores are dropping, it is time to rotate to another field, or get them to a dry lot to feed them.

Feeding in a dry lot is much simpler when it comes to feeding cattle. We can balance a ration we know will meet the needs of the cow. If any producer needs help balancing a ration for cows, growing calves, bulls, or replacement heifers, stop by the K-State Research and Extension Office in Concordia, call 785-243-8185, or email bmelton@ksu.edu.

CONTROLLING VOLUNTEER TREES

Trees are a vital part of our landscapes, but there are situations where trees need to be controlled. Volunteer trees often come up in the wrong place, whether that is in a pasture or in your flowerbed. Sometimes control measures are needed to control the spread of volunteer trees.

Volunteer trees can be difficult to control because some species resprout after cutting and some species will not resprout. Of the species that do not resprout, cutting is an effective control method. For example, eastern redcedar is a very common species that will not resprout after cutting. Some of those species that do resprout after cutting are Siberian elm, hackberry, Osage orange (hedge tree), oak, ash, aspen, cottonwood, maple, and sycamore, but these are just a few of the trees that resprout. If you are trying to eliminate any of these trees, either they need to be dug out or the cut stump will need to be treated with a herbicide after cutting.

When I say volunteer trees, I mean those that come up from a seed, not suckers that originate from the roots of an existing tree. The recommendations given in the remainder of this article are designed to kill volunteer trees not suckers. Using herbicides on suckers will damage and possibly kill the original tree. Trees that commonly produce suckers include honeylocust, black locust, hackberry, crabapple, and cottonwood. It is also possible for larger trees of the same species to become root-grafted. Even though root-grafted trees are not suckers, they do share materials between the individual root systems and therefore herbicides used to treat one tree can be passed along to its neighbor.

Let's say you have a tree that you want to control that is a volunteer and there is no other tree of the same species close enough to be root-grafted, what should be done? Well, if the tree is too large to be dug out and moved, then you should cut the tree down and use a herbicide on the cut stump.

The next question is what herbicide should be used on the stumps. Triclopyr and glyphosate are the herbicides most commonly available to homeowners. Triclopyr is found in many brush killers and glyphosate is found in Roundup as well as numerous other products. Read the label before purchasing to make sure that a cut stump treatment is listed.

Most often the undiluted product is applied to the stump immediately after cutting. A paint brush is often used for the application if the stump is close to other plant material. It is important that the stump is treated immediately or at least within 5 minutes of being cut.

Trees do not need to be actively growing to be controlled. Actually, this time of year is a very good time to treat as long as the applications are made when the temperature is above freezing. If you have any questions feel free to stop by or contact me in the in the Washington office, 785-325-2121 or khatsohl@ksu.edu.



CHOOSING AND CARING FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

It's almost that time of year again, time to choose a Christmas tree. Here are some helpful tips and tricks to help you pick out the best, longest lasting tree for your family.

When choosing an already cut Christmas tree there are a few things you should check to make sure the tree isn't too far gone, before you purchase the tree. If the needles on the tree are a dull, grayish-green color or feel stiff and brittle you shouldn't purchase that tree. The needles are telling you the tree has been cut for a while and has lost too much moisture. If the needles pull off the tree easily that is also a sign of too much moisture lost. You want to find a tree that is green and the needles hold strong when you try and pull them off. The needles on a freshly cut tree should ooze a little if you break them apart.

Once you have brought your tree home, you want to recut the trunk. Make a new cut about one inch above the original cut. Making this fresh cut will open up any clogged water-conducting tissues. Once you have made the cut place the trunk immediately in warm water. This will make sure the tree is taking up water right away to stay nice and green throughout the season.

When deciding on where to place your tree, you want to place it in the coolest spot possible. I know it can be hard to find the perfect place that isn't in the middle of the room, but you want to keep it away from as much heat as possible. Avoid places near a fireplace, wood-burning stove, heat duct, and the television set. The heat put off from places like these will cause excess water loss from your tree, causing it to die quicker. To make sure your tree stays healthy you will want to make sure the water reservoir for your tree stays filled. If the reservoir loses enough water to expose the bottom of the trunk you will have to recut the trunk again to expose new tissue. I hope these tips and tricks will help you keep your Christmas tree green and healthy for the holidays. If you have any questions feel free to stop by or contact me in the Washington office, 785-325-2121 or khatesohl@ksu.edu.



CHOOSING A PLANT SAFE ICE MELT

After an icy winter, have you ever noticed the plants around your walkways or driveways looking burnt or are patches dying out? If so, it's time to look at the deicer you are using and find a more plant safe material to use. Keep in mind deicers can damage concrete surfaces as well as the plants and grass. There are five main materials that are used as chemical deicers: calcium chloride, sodium chloride, potassium chloride, urea, and calcium magnesium acetate.

Calcium chloride is the traditional ice-melting product. Though it will melt ice to approximately -25 degrees F, it will form a slippery/slimy surface on concrete and other hard surfaces. Plants are not likely to be harmed unless excessive amounts are used.

Rock salt is sodium chloride and is the least expensive material available. It is effective to approximately 12 degrees F, but can damage soils, plants, and metals.

Potassium chloride can cause serious plant injury when washed or splashed on foliage. It is effective to approximately 25 degrees F. Both calcium chloride and potassium chloride can damage roots of plants.

Urea is a fertilizer that is sometimes used to melt ice. Though it is only about 10% as corrosive as sodium chloride, it can contaminate ground and surface water with nitrates. Urea is effective to approximately 21 degrees F.

Calcium magnesium acetate (CMA), a newer product, is made from dolomitic limestone and acetic acid (the principal compound of vinegar). CMA works differently than the other materials in that it does not form a brine like salt but rather helps prevent snow particles from sticking to each other or the road surface. It has little effect on plant growth or concrete surfaces, and is effective to approximately 20 degrees F. Limiting amounts and usage of these products will decrease the chance of injury to plants. Problems can occur when they are used excessively and there isn't any rainfall to wash/leach the material away from the area. When applying deicers use them in moderation. Don't over apply to make sure all the ice and snow melts away. These products are meant to help break up the ice so it can be removed, not dissolve it completely. So when using chemical deicers remember to use them in moderation to protect your concrete and your plants. If you have any questions feel free to stop by or contact me in the Washington office, 785-325-2121 or khatesohl@ksu.edu.

**RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT EXTENSION OFFICES
WILL BE CLOSED ON
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18TH
FOR TRAINING
SORRY FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE THIS CAUSES**

KANSAS AGRABILITY PROJECT—CULTIVATING ACCESSIBLE AGRICULTURE

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 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and consists of a National Project and State/Regional Projects, including the Kansas AgrAbility Project. Each project is a collaborative partnership between a land grant university and one or more nonprofit disability services organizations.

Kansas AgrAbility partners are: Kansas State University, Southeast Kansas Independent Living (SKIL), and Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK). Contact AgrAbility at **1-800-KAN DO IT (1-800-526-3648)** Funding for the project comes from a United States Department of Agriculture grant. The purpose of Kansas AgrAbility is to provide information and resources to help Kansas farmers with disabilities locate and access appropriate assistive occupational technologies.

Kansas AgrAbility assists people involved in production agriculture who work on small or large operations. AgrAbility clients can be owner/operators, farm employees, or their family. Kansas AgrAbility Agriculture Assistive Technology (AT) Specialists combine their knowledge of agriculture with disability expertise to provide farmers, ranchers, and farm workers with the specialized services needed to safely accommodate their disabilities in everyday farm and ranch operations.

Furthermore, the project engages extension educators, disability experts, rural professionals, and volunteers in offering an array of services. Kansas AgrAbility Project staff provide a range of no-cost assistance to farmers, ranchers, and farm workers who have disabilities. AgrAbility can also help by:

- Providing information and educational materials for farmers, ranchers, their family members, and the professionals who serve them.
- Recommending farm equipment adaptation, home modifications, and adaptive equipment.
- Providing peer support from other farmers and ranchers with disabilities.

Referring families to local service providers.

People eligible for AgrAbility services may have any type of disability – physical, cognitive, or sensory. Examples of disabilities include, but are not limited to:

- amputation
- arthritis
- back pain or injury
- hearing impairment or deafness
- head injury
- heart problems
- multiple sclerosis
- muscular dystrophy
- paralysis
- Parkinson’s Disease
- respiratory problems
- stroke
- traumatic brain injury



A disability that limits an individual’s capacity to do agricultural work or activities of daily farm living qualifies that person for AgrAbility services.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

From the agents, staff, and board of the River Valley Extension District #4 we want to wish our readers a safe and Happy Holiday Season. Over the coming weeks we want to remind you that the RVED offices will be closed to observe the following holidays: **Monday, December 24, and Tuesday, December 25 for Christmas Holidays**
Tuesday, January 1 for the New Year’s Holiday, and Monday, January 21 for MLK Jr. Holiday

ASSISTANCE DOG ETIQUETTE

I have had the opportunity and need to travel by air a number of times in recent years. One thing that has caught my attention is the number of assistance dogs that accompany travelers. I recently received some educational information from our local KSDS Assistance Dogs that I thought was too good not to share. So, thanks to KSDS of Washington for providing us with the following Assistance Dog Etiquette. It is important that we know the basic rules to follow when encountering someone with a service dog.

The American's with Disabilities Act guarantees that, among other things, people with disabilities have the right to be accompanied by an assistance dog in all areas open to the general public.

The general rule is: When you meet a person with an assistance dog, remember that the dog is working. Don't do anything to interrupt the dog from performing its tasks.

KSDS offers some tips for meeting an assistance dog team:

*Don't be afraid of the dog. Assistance dogs are tested for temperament and have been trained professionally to have excellent manners. Unless we do something very deliberate to interrupt their work, assistance dogs will generally ignore distractions around them and continue about the business they are trained to do.

*Do not touch the assistance dog without asking permission first! This will be a deliberate distraction that may prevent the dog from doing the job it is trained to do and may place the human partner at risk. Some assistance dog partners are OK with you touching their dog and others are not.

*Never feed the dog! Most service dogs are likely on a very high-quality dog food. This food is balanced to meet the dog's nutritional needs while minimizing stools. Feeding the dog anything else might possibly upset its digestive tract, may complicate travel plans, and may cause the dog to be distracted from work. Feeding the dog may simply cause it to be distracted and if everyone that encountered the dog tried to feed it then we would simply be undoing much of the hard work that went into the training. Ultimately we place the human partner at risk if we try to feed the dog.

*Do not whistle or make sounds to the dog. Speak to the person, not the assistance dog. Most human handlers, whether a trainer or a human partner, do not mind talking about their dog if they have time. Talking to the dog may cause it to be distracted from doing the work it must do.

*Never make assumptions about the individual's intelligence, feelings, or capabilities. Some human partners are very private about the reason they have an assistance dog and others share very freely. It is up to them and we should not invade their privacy and ask.

Finally, I will add an item or two because of where we live. Often we encounter someone in public that is working on training a dog. Many times these individuals are volunteers and the dog is working very hard to learn the job it is to do. It is very important that we follow the rules above in order that we are respectful of the trainer's time and of the dog in its need to learn!

CHANGING RURAL DEMOGRAPHICS

At our recent K-State Research and Extension Annual Conference we had a presentation from Matthew Sanderson, Associate Professor of Sociology from K-State on the long-term demographic trends in rural Kansas and rural America. The presentation confirmed what we know about rural Kansas but some of the graphics are really just mind-blowing!

I wish each person in America and especially our decision makers could see this presentation. So, here is the link and I encourage you to take time to watch it!

<https://mediasite.k-state.edu/mediasite/Play/60bb0ce426c34ce5a66c6689259d7b231d>

Many of us work in the area of community vitality, working towards making our local communities a better place to live, to work, or to retire in. That is all good but my concern is that these trends are so big that it will be difficult for one individual community to overcome by itself. I think we must start working together on a larger scale.

One of the things we always discuss is how do we make our communities a place where young people want to stay, come back to, or move to. In order to do that, we must understand why they leave.

First of all, we are often our own worst enemies. How many times have we all talked about our communities in a negative way? There is nothing to do here! Get your education and get out of here! Sound familiar? So the first step is to start to identify and promote the strengths we have in our communities and instead of complaining, address those negatives!

Next, we must think about why young people move to the cities. Education, high paying jobs, and a plethora of social and cultural opportunities often top the list. We also know that sometimes young people find that cities are not all they want and would like to return to home or to a community like where they grew up. But there must be a package of quality of life that includes those jobs and cultural opportunities in order for that to happen.

We must learn to think in those terms. We may have some argument that we have a somewhat lower cost of living but we must work to get wages relatively comparable to what they can earn in cities. Connectivity is vital. We must continue to push for the latest and highest quality Internet, even in our remote rural areas. We must continue to push for cell phone coverage without these huge dead zones in rural areas! Technology and communication is a way of life these days!

Our regional airports have really done a good job in making good, reliable, and affordable transportation close and convenient! For many, this is a vital part of working remotely.

Many would say that cultural things are a waste of money! Dining, movies, art exhibits, museums, parks, walking trails, etc. are all things that are enjoyed in large cities and must be offered as part of a package of opportunities that will bring new residents to the area.

Do I have all the answers? Probably not, but I am willing to bring my K-State Research and Extension Community Vitality Team to the table to help in any way that we can. Together we can make a difference!

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PERMIT NO. 3****Address Service Requested****RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT****“2018-2019 UP-COMING MEETINGS & EVENTS”**

DATE	TIME	PROGRAM	LOCATION
Dec. 11	TBD	RVED Crop Insurance Workshop	TBD
Dec. 13	6pm	Calving School	McPherson-4-H Building
Jan. 7	7-9pm	RVED Ag Lease Survey Summary Meeting	Concordia-Fairgrounds
Feb.	TBD	Farm Management for Tomorrow: Building and Saving Legacies	TBD
Feb.5,12,19,26	6-8pm	Board Leadership Series	Washington-FNB Basement
Feb. 13	TBD	Tree Pruning Workshop	Belleville-4-H Building
Feb. 21-Mar. 28	3:30-8:30pm	Women in Ag Series	Belleville-Ad Astra Bank Basement
Mar.	TBD	Spring Pre-plant Workshop	TBD
Mar. 17-May 11		Walk KS	State Wide Program