



River Valley District

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WADE REH NAMED NEW RVD DIRECTOR



Hello to everyone in the River Valley Extension District community! I am Wade Reh and I'm the new director of River Valley Extension as well as the Community Vitality Extension Agent. I'll be assuming the duties previously performed by John Forshee. I'm extremely excited to join the community, get to work, and learn more about the area.

I grew up in Inman, Kansas with three brothers and two hard working parents who ensured all four of us got a good education. After graduating from Inman High School, I spent four years in Stillwater earning my BS in Animal Science from Oklahoma State University. I then moved on to the University of California, Davis, where I got an MS in Animal Science and a Ph.D. in Genetics. My research during that time was on

improving the efficiency of genetic engineering of the mammalian genome.

After the University of California, I worked two years doing cancer research at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Research Center then five more years at the University of Texas's Dell Pediatric Research Institute in Austin. My research investigated the contribution of molecular DNA repair mechanisms to the prevention, causes, and cures of cancer.

In 2017, I joined K-State Research and Extension as an Agriculture-Natural Resources/4-H/ Community Vitality Agent in Kiowa County (Greensburg). Throughout my time there, our main focus was on revitalizing and growing Extension in the county and developing stability in rural communities.

One might ask, "So with that past, why are you now in Extension?" There is a lot to the answer of that question, and I invite you to come by and get all the details. It boils down to having a desire for knowledge as well as a desire for service. I've found that K-State Research and Extension is one of the few instances where sound knowledge is imparted to patrons as a service to individuals, families, and communities to make lives better.

I met my wife Shelley while in Stillwater. We got married the summer after we graduated OSU and promptly moved to Davis, California. She's also a scientist by training and has a MS in Comparative Pathology. Most of our spare time we've had over the last 20 years was spent raising and enjoying our now teenage daughters. We also like to vegetable garden and hike in the mountains. We have enjoyed our time in all the places we've lived, but we always missed Kansas and are thrilled to be back in the state.

I'm thankful for the unique experiences I've had and the path that has brought me here. I look forward to getting to know the area, and I'm eager to meet and get to know you. Please don't hesitate to reach out. My office is in Clay Center, so drop by or give me a call. I would also be happy to make arrangements to chat with you a little closer to your home as well.

LIVING WELL TOGETHER VIRTUAL PROGRAM SERIES

Join the Family and Consumer Science (FCS) program Series “Living Well Together”. This series is on Thursday evenings at 6:45 p.m. Every Thursday evening features a different topic that may be of interest to you. Join K-State Research and Extension Family and Consumer agents and guest speakers virtually for a variety of topics.

This program series will discuss essential knowledge and skills such as financial literacy, building strong families, and leading healthier lives. February programs feature:

- **February 4th – Social Media 101** – Do you know what phone apps are the most popular? John Calvert, Director of Safe and Secure Schools Unit talks about what apps to be aware of on our child’s phone. **This program is recommended for the Adult audience.**
- **February 11th – Love Languages** – Relationships grow better when we understand each other. Everyone gives and receives love differently, but with a little insight into these differences, we can be confidently equipped to communicate love well.
- **February 18th – Make Active Habits Stick** - Exercise as Medicine plus a preview about Walk Kansas
- **February 25th – Living Well With Diabetes** – Diabetes is a common, costly, and serious disease. Let’s discuss how diabetes can be delayed, controlled, and even prevented.

Watch the River Valley District webpage: rivervalley.k-state.edu, Foods Nutrition, and Health tab on the left-hand side and the registration link is in the middle of the page. The River Valley District Facebook page will also show more news about February (FCS) programs. Questions: contact Sonia Cooper srcoper@ksu.edu or 785-632-5335.

AMERICA SAVES WEEK

America Saves Week is an annual celebration and call to action for everyday Americans to commit to saving successfully. America Saves Week is February 22-26th.

The River Valley Extension District is a partnering organization and Monica Thayer, Family Resource Management Extension Agent, is here to assist you with your financial management needs, including increasing savings!

Consider participating in America Saves Week in February to work on your financial situation.

- Monday, 2/22—Save Automatically
- Tuesday, 2/23—Save for the Unexpected
- Wednesday, 2/24—Save to Retire
- Thursday, 2/25—Save by Reducing Debt
- Friday, 2/26—Save as a Family

Watch for more information about America Saves Week in the River Valley District on our Facebook page or contact Monica at 785-527-5084 or mthayer@ksu.edu.

WALK KANSAS

It’s the beginning of February and we may think; is winter going to end? Is spring coming soon? Well, Walk Kansas 2021 is coming soon—March 28 – May 21. Mark your calendar for this annual health and wellness program.

Plan to join Walk Kansas to get more active and start feeling better. The benefits of physical activity can boost your mood, sharpen your focus, reduce stress, and improve your sleep.

Regular exercise strengthens your heart muscle, helps your lungs function, and reduces your risk for coronary heart disease. Overtime, physical activity can help you live a longer, healthier life.

Watch for details about Walk Kansas coming soon. Walking is fun!

PRUNING FRUIT TREES

Fruit trees can be pruned from now through March as long as the wood isn’t frozen. Following are some general recommendations on pruning mature fruit trees followed by more specific instructions on each species.

Take out broken, damaged or diseased branches.

If two branches form a narrow angle, prune one out. Narrow angles are weak and tend to break during wind or ice storms.

Take out all suckers. Suckers are branches that grow straight up. They may originate from the trunk or from major branches.

If two branches cross and rub against one another, one should be taken out.

Cut back or remove branches that are so low they interfere with harvest or pruning. If cutting back a branch, always cut back to another branch or bud, don’t leave a stub.

Cut back branches to reduce the total size of the tree, if necessary.

Thin branches on the interior of the tree.

Peach and nectarine trees require more pruning than any other fruit trees because they bear fruit on growth from the previous year. Not pruning results in fruit being borne further and further from the center of the tree allowing a heavy fruit crop to break major branches due to the weight of the fruit.

Apple trees tend to become overgrown if not pruned regularly. Wind storms and ice storms will then cause more damage. Also, trees that are not pruned often become biennial bearers. In other words, they bear a huge crop one year and none the next. Biennial bearing is caused by too many fruit on the tree. Though pruning helps, fruit often needs to be thinned as well. The goal is an apple about every 4 inches. Spacing can vary as long as the average is about every 4 inches.

For Cherry, Pear, and Plum trees a light pruning is usually all that is needed. Simply remove branches that are causing or will cause a problem. If you have any questions feel free contact Kelsey in the in the Washington office at 785-325-2121 or khatesohl@ksu.edu.

CHANGING FARM BILL ELECTIONS

When the 2018 Farm Bill came out, it had many similarities to the previous Farm Bill. We still had the two main programs to choose from for crop protection, Agriculture Risk Coverage – County (ARC-CO) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC). There were some minor tweaks to these programs, but the payment structure remained basically the same. The most significant change that benefited landowners and producers is that they can make changes after the second year. Producers had to choose the program they wanted for each crop by March 15th, 2019. They were then stuck with that for the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 marketing year. Now producers can change elections now until March 15th, 2021 for the 2021/2022 marketing year.

Many producers see the increase in prices over the last few months and think they need to change programs (and they may be right). We are currently in the 2020/2021 marketing year. This marketing year ends in May for wheat and August for milo, corn, and soybeans. By the time elections are made for the 2021/2022 marketing year, we will have two months for wheat and 5 months for fall-crops before the marketing year starts. Keep this in mind if you are thinking about changing programs. Prices can change quickly in either direction before the marketing year starts. The other thing to know about the marketing year is that each month is weighted by the amount of grain that gets sold each month. This is illustrated well in the document that is included below in the newsletter titled “*Higher Grain Prices, But Be Careful.*”

There are two simple things that go into each payment, yield and price. I joke with producers and say if they could tell me future yields and prices, I will tell them which program they should choose. Of course, they laugh because nobody can predict the future despite their best efforts. However, we can all speculate and using the best information. The website www.AgManager.info has monthly updates on MYA prices and grain market outlooks. This information can help producers determine if they need to change programs. Also, producers can call the River Valley Extension Offices if they need help determining which program they should select going forward.

HIGHER GRAIN PRICES, BUT BE CAREFUL

Rich Llewelyn (rvl@ksu.edu), G.A. (Art Barnaby) - Kansas State University Department of Agricultural Economics—01/2021

The recent release of the “Agricultural Prices” report on December 30, 2020 provides more information on cash grain prices for the 2020/2021 marketing year. Prices have continued to move higher and the Marketing Year Average (MYA) price estimates by K-State have also increased for each crop since the previous estimate a month ago. However, care is needed in understanding what is happening and how this affects the ARC/PLC election decision that is due on March 15, for the 2021/2022 marketing year. That is the next year, not the current marketing year. Confusion about this could lead to poor decisions, because the current high prices do not necessarily translate into high prices during the year for which the election is being made.

The report in December showed monthly prices received for November, the third month in the marketing year for corn, grain sorghum and soybeans, and the sixth month in the wheat marketing year, which began June 1. Using the report prices for November and futures prices throughout the rest of the marketing year, K-State estimated the MYA prices for these commodities, for the current marketing year (2020/2021).

The estimated 2020/2021 MYA wheat price is \$4.88, up \$0.12 from the estimate a month ago, which would generate a wheat Price Loss Coverage (PLC) payment of \$0.62 per bushel (Table 1). Wheat is the only crop now showing a 2020/2021 PLC payment, with half of the marketing year completed, which means that there is getting to be more certainty regarding this estimate. Monthly prices are weighted by monthly sales to determine the final MYA price, and usually about two-thirds of the crop is marketed during the first half of the marketing year. Keep in mind however, that historical patterns do not always hold in the current year, which may well be the case for 2020/2021.

The estimated K-State prices for the 2020/2021 marketing year are \$3.86 for corn (up \$0.11 from a month ago; \$4.89 for grain sorghum (up \$0.25 from last month); and \$10.35 for soybeans (up \$0.24 from last month’s estimate), as shown in Tables 2, 3, and 4, respectively. These are still early estimates with a very large error, as seen by the changes that occurred from a month ago. Several more months of information are needed before much confidence can be placed in these estimates. Based on these estimated MYA prices, there will be no PLC payment for any of these crops for 2020/2021. Corn is the closest, being only \$0.16 per bushel above the reference price of \$3.70, and if it should drop below that level for the yearly average, a PLC payment would take place. Currently, grain sorghum and soybeans are far above their respective reference prices of \$3.95 and \$8.40 per bushel.

Grain sorghum uses corn futures prices in estimating monthly cash prices. This is an unusual year, with very high grain sorghum prices currently, and errors for the grain sorghum estimated price are likely more than for the other crops. Sales weights may not follow historical patterns given the high prices at harvest, leading to further errors. So be very careful with these estimates.

These prices are for the 2020/2021 marketing year, for the crop harvested in 2020, with any payments to be received in October 2021. Producers will need to make a new election between ARC and PLC by March 15, 2021, but that will be for the crop to be harvested in 2021, which is the following marketing year. These current high prices, particularly for grain sorghum, may not hold into the next marketing year and producers should be careful in making their election that they do not merely look at the prices in this current marketing year.

K-State now has begun estimating prices for the following marketing year (2021/2022), using the same methodology of futures

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HIGHER GRAIN PRICES, BUT BE CAREFUL—CONTINUED

prices, average sales weights and an assumed national basis. Average marketing sales weights are from 2015-2019, the last available five years. Current basis is used for corn, soybeans and wheat, while an average basis for the last two years of the current month is used for grain sorghum, due to the unusually strong basis this year, which is unlikely to continue. The estimated 2021/2022 price for wheat is \$5.32, which would lead to a PLC payment of \$0.18. This price estimate is \$0.31 higher than a month ago. The corn price for 2021/2022 is estimated to be \$3.81, up \$0.14 from last month. Grain sorghum price is estimated to be \$4.48, which is a large \$0.57 higher than a month ago. Soybean are estimated to have a 2021/2022 price of \$9.50, up \$0.20 from last month. At these prices, there would be no PLC payment for corn, grain sorghum, or soybeans in October 2022.

Much care needs to be exercised in using these prices, since this is far, far, far into the future and strong assumptions are being made about the sales weights and basis. These numbers are likely wrong, but provide an educated guess that may be helpful in making the upcoming ARC/PLC election.

At these prices, if they were to hold for the next marketing year, wheat still seems to lean toward PLC, but not strongly. Soybeans lean toward ARC, because there seems little chance of a PLC payment at the estimated price of \$9.50 and the fact that soybeans have never had a PLC payment in the history of the program. The more difficult decision is for the feed grains. Corn and grain sorghum would not have a PLC payment at these prices, but the estimated corn price is closer to the reference price than grain sorghum. The grain sorghum price is far above its reference price of \$3.95, but it also may be subject to greater changes than corn in the next year. It is unclear whether Chinese demand for grain sorghum will continue, and there may be a lot of grain sorghum planted this spring, which would potentially increase supply and lower the price.

Much of the ARC/PLC decision depends on the county yield, which help determine ARC. Another factor is the individual producer's risk preferences. PLC provides downside price protection. ARC gives more of a revenue-type protection, but with a county-level yield trigger (not individual farm, like crop insurance). Much depends somewhat on what the producer is trying to accomplish with the program.

Farmers will need to multiply the payment rate times their farm-level approved FSA yield times 85% times their base acres to generate their expected PLC payment for their farm. The PLC payment is subject to payment limits and sequestration cuts, as are ARC payments.

Farmers who are in counties that have an “average” yield (i.e., 2020/2021 county yield equals the 5-year Olympic average yield) will generally need an MYA price that is below the 5-year Olympic average price adjusted for the 14% deductible to generate an ARC payment. Wheat would need to fall below \$4.73, corn would need to fall below \$3.18, grain sorghum below \$3.40, and the MYA price would need to be below \$7.96 for soybeans, in order for ARC payments to occur with average yields. Currently, K-State's price estimates would generate no ARC payments for these crops in counties with a 2020 “average” county yield, for which payments would be made in October 2021, though the wheat price is not far from the threshold of \$4.73.

K-State has a PUBLICATION that provides projections and sources of MYA prices for 2020/2021 and a several for 2021/2022, which will continue to be updated. It also shows the final MYA prices for 2019/2020.

Estimated MYA Price(s)	Est 20/21	Est Wt.*		
June	4.56	13.5	Last Month 20/21 Est MYA price	\$4.87
July	4.54	17.9	2020 ARC Reference Price	
August	4.55	13.5	MYA Price 18/19	\$5.16
September	4.73	8.9	MYA Price 17/18	\$4.72
October	4.98	6.0	MYA Price 16/17	\$3.89
November	5.24	5.0	MYA Price 15/16	\$4.89
Forecast December	5.28	7.9	MYA Price 14/15	\$5.99
Forecast January 21	5.28	8.8	5 Yr. Olympic Average	
Forecast February	5.28	5.0	Reference Price for 2020 ARC	\$5.50
Forecast March	5.29	5.0	ARC 14% Deductible Price	\$4.73
Forecast April	5.29	4.4		
Forecast May	5.25	4.0	PLC Reference Price	\$5.50
Estimated 20/21 MYA price	\$4.88		Estimated PLC Payment	\$0.62

*The 20/21 monthly prices in black are NASS published prices, 20/21 monthly prices in red are K-State estimates. Weights are a five-year average, 2015-2019.

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HIGHER GRAIN PRICES, BUT BE CAREFUL—CONTINUED

Table 2: Estimated MYA 2020/21 Corn Price For Calculating 2020/21 ARC and PLC Payments (12/30/20)

Estimated MYA Price(s)	Est 20/21	Est. Wt.*		
September	3.40	6.9	Last Month 20/21 Est MYA price	\$3.72
October	3.61	11.2	2020 ARC Reference Price	
November	3.79	12.7	MYA Price 18/19	\$3.61
Forecast December	3.98	9.1	MYA Price 17/18	\$3.36
Forecast January 21	3.98	12.6	MYA Price 16/17	\$3.36
Forecast February	3.98	7.6	MYA Price 15/16	\$3.61
Forecast March	4.00	6.7	MYA Price 14/15	\$3.70
Forecast April	4.00	5.7	5 Yr. Olympic Average	
Forecast May	4.00	6.2	Reference Price for 2020 ARC	\$3.70
Forecast June	4.00	7.7	ARC 14% Deductible	\$3.18
Forecast July	3.84	6.7	PLC Reference Price	\$3.70
Forecast August	3.84	6.9	PLC Payment	\$0.00
Estimated 20/21 MYA price	\$3.86			

*The 20/21 monthly prices in black are NASS published prices; 20/21 monthly prices in red are K-State estimates. Weights are a five-year average, 2015-2019.

Table 3: Estimated MYA 2020/21 Grain Sorghum Price For Calculating 2020/21 ARC and PLC Payments (12/30/20)

Estimated MYA Price(s)	Est 20/21	Est. Wt.*		
September	4.08	4.5	Last Month 20/21 Est MYA price	\$4.46
October	4.47	11.0	2020 ARC Reference Price	
November	4.82	18.9	MYA Price 18/19	\$3.26
Forecast December	5.07	18.1	MYA Price 17/18	\$3.22
Forecast January 21	5.07	13.3	MYA Price 16/17	\$2.79
Forecast February	5.07	5.3	MYA Price 15/16	\$3.31
Forecast March	5.09	4.8	MYA Price 14/15	\$4.03
Forecast April	5.09	4.0	5 Yr. Olympic Average	
Forecast May	5.09	4.1	Reference Price for 2020 ARC	\$3.95
Forecast June	5.09	4.2	ARC 14% Deductible	\$3.40
Forecast July	4.88	6.6	PLC Reference Price	\$3.95
Forecast August	4.88	5.1	PLC Payment	\$0.00
Estimated 20/21 MYA price	\$4.89			

*The 20/21 monthly prices in black are NASS published prices; 20/21 monthly prices in red are K-State estimates. Weights are a five-year average, 2015-2019.

Table 4: Estimated MYA 2020/21 Soybean Price For Calculating 2020/21 ARC and PLC Payments (12/30/20)

Estimated MYA Price(s)	Est. 20/21	Est. Wt.*		
September	9.24	6.8	Last Month 20/21 Est MYA price	\$9.66
October	9.63	24.1	2020 ARC Reference Price	
November	10.30	11.1	MYA Price 18/19	\$8.48
Forecast December	10.86	10.0	MYA Price 17/18	\$9.33
Forecast January 21	10.89	13.5	MYA Price 16/17	\$9.47
Forecast February	10.89	6.4	MYA Price 15/16	\$8.95
Forecast March	10.88	5.9	MYA Price 14/15	\$10.10
Forecast April	10.88	4.7	5 Yr. Olympic Average	
Forecast May	10.85	3.7	Reference Price for 2020 ARC	\$9.25
Forecast June	10.85	5.0	ARC 14% Deductible	7.96
Forecast July	10.61	4.8	PLC Reference Price	8.40
Forecast August	10.00	4.0	PLC Payment	\$0.00
Estimated 20/21 MYA price	\$10.35			

*The 20/21 monthly prices in black are NASS published prices; 20/21 monthly prices in red are K-State estimates. Weights are a five-year average, 2015-2019.

BALANCED NUTRITION HELPS MINIMIZE CALVING DIFFICULTY

By [Jaymelynn Farney](#), *Beef Systems Specialist, Parsons*

The most commonly dreaded period in cow-calf production for spring calving herds is about to occur – calving out heifers. There have been many strides from a genetic perspective that have reduced the proportion of heifers that need calving assistance. This has been primarily accomplished by using high calving ease sires, high accuracy sires through AI, and heifer selection tools such as pre-breeding exams to evaluate pelvic size and shape. All these tools help minimize the chance of calving difficulty. However, if nutrition and body condition are not appropriate at calving, even if you made the best genetic decisions, you can be setting yourself up for a wreck at calving.

When calving heifers, the ideal situation would be heifers that complete parturition quickly and with no-to-minimal assistance. If assistance is needed, the earlier the better. Research shows that a greater percentage of heifers were cycling at start of breeding and a greater percentage were bred if assistance was provided early during parturition as compared to delaying assistance.

There are multiple reasons that calving difficulty can occur which may include calf too big, pelvis too small, abnormal presentation, lack of uterine contractions or fatigue, and twins to name a few. Abnormal presentations cannot be eliminated by genetic selection or nutritional management, so be prepared for these scenarios a minimum of 3 weeks before your first calf is expected.

Calf birth weight is often blamed as the sole culprit of calving issues. Calf birth weight can be affected by several factors – genetics, gestation length, and to an extent dam nutrition. High calving ease sires typically have a shortened gestation length, hence the reason that most of those calves are a bit lighter in weight. On average, calves will gain between 1.5-2 pounds of body weight in late gestation. For example, if the average gestation length is 283 days and if a calf is born a week early it will often weigh 10-14 pounds less. Dams that experience cold stress in the last trimester may have calves that are heavier in weight. Typically birth weights are greater for calves born in the spring or winter as compared to fall born counterparts. A Nebraska study that evaluated 6 years of data found for each 1-degree F lower than the average winter temperature (December through February) calf birth weight increased 1 pound (Deutscher et al., 1999). The increase in birth weight is most likely due to the needed increase in nutrient flux through supplementation to off-set cold stress events. Now you might think, it is a cold winter and I do not want to deal with calving problems, “I will just make that cow survive on the same diet she has been on and not account for added maintenance requirements due to cold stress.” That thought will lead to a plethora of other issues, that can extend through that calf’s entire productive life.

Many producers and researchers have tried to manage calf birth weight through dam nutrition. The thought is that by restricting feed the calves will be lighter at birth and have fewer calving issues. This concept turns out to create more

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calving issues than appropriately feeding heifers. A study done at Kansas State in the 70s found that heifers that were fed 67% of nutritional requirements as compared to 100% of nutritional requirements had 7% fewer calves born alive; half as many return to estrus within 40 days of calving; calves 25 pounds lighter at weaning; and heifer calves that reached puberty 20 days later (Corah et al., 1975). Additionally, restricting heifer diet in the last trimester can result in potentially lower quality and quantity of colostrum; reduced absorption of immunoglobins from colostrum potentially driven by weaker calves that were slower to nurse; an increase in calf scours; and reduction in overall weaning weights. A review article evaluating the effect of supplementing either energy or protein to heifers found that feeding appropriate to slightly higher nutrient content than required to heifers did not affect calving difficulty. In 9 studies where energy was supplemented to heifers, 7 of the studies showed no change in calving difficulty; whereas the others showed a slight increase in the number of heifers that needed assistance at calving. In the years where the heifers needed assistance, the winters were incredibly cold and wet. As mentioned above, typically in long periods of extremely cold weather, calf weight will be increased. When evaluating excessively supplementing a protein feed to heifers, 1 out of 5 studies showed an increase in calving difficulty with no changes in the other 4 studies.

It is very important to appropriately balance a diet for 1st calf heifers. These heifers need appropriate energy to help with the birthing process or they will “quit” on you as they just run out of steam going through parturition. Additionally, the calves need enough energy to quickly get up and nurse and if dam energy is restricted, calves will be lethargic. Proteins are essential for colostrum quality which has major lifetime effects on that calf. As you are preparing for this spring calving season, please “don’t starve the calving difficulty out of your heifers”.

Contact Brett Melton, Livestock Agent, at 785-243-8185 or bmelton@ksu.edu with your livestock questions.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING CLASS

Sharpen your driving skills and possibly prevent an accident from happening or maybe lower your auto insurance premium, too.

Enroll in the upcoming Defensive Driving Course offered at the River Valley District Office in Clay Center. The class will be Tuesday, April 13th, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. There is a \$20 registration fee per person to pay for materials. Registration and payment are due by April 6th. In order to have a class, a minimum of 15 people are required to sign up.

Defensive driving tips will be presented by Trooper Ben Gardner from the Kansas Highway Patrol. The class is completed in one day. Participants can bring their lunch with refrigeration available or go out for an hour lunch. Snacks will be provided at breaks.

Participants do not drive or take a test. Insurance companies recognize the benefits of defensive driving classes and many provide a 5-10% premium discount to graduates of this course. The certificate received is effective for three years.

Contact the Clay Center Office at 785-632-5335 to register.

KEEP SMELLING THE ROSES

For everyone who receives vases of flowers on Valentine's Day, or anytime of the year, here are a couple of tips and tricks to help get the most out of your flowers. Follow these helpful guidelines to help extend the life of your flowers.

1. Keep the vase filled or the floral foam soaked with warm water. Add fresh, warm water daily. If the water in the vase turns cloudy, replace the water immediately. If possible, recut stems by removing one to two inches with a sharp knife. When cutting the stems, cut them under water, as this will allow the stem to draw in water instead of air.
2. Keep flowers in a cool spot (65 to 72 degrees Fahrenheit), keep away from direct sunlight, heating or cooling vents, near radiators, and directly under ceiling fans.
3. If a rose begins to wilt in your arrangement, remove it and recut the stem under water.

For loose stems that don't come with in a vase, follow these easy steps:

1. If you can't get your flowers in a flower food solution right away, keep flowers in a cool place.
2. Fill a clean, deep vase with water and add the flower food obtained from your florist. Be sure to follow the mixing directions on the package.
3. Remove leaves that will be below the waterline. Leaves that are in the water will promote bacterial growth.
4. Recut stems under water with a sharp knife and place the flowers in the vase solution you've prepared.
5. If a rose begins to wilt, remove it and recut the stem under water.

For those of you who receive planted tulip bulbs for Valentine's Day instead of roses, here is what you can do with them after they are finished blooming. Once the bulbs have stopped blooming, discontinue watering and allow the foliage to die back. Don't try and remove any foliage while it is still green, but once the foliage is dried and brown, remove it from the pot by gently tugging on the leaves until they break away from the bulb and come out of the ground. If the leaves don't pull away from the bulbs easily you haven't waited quite long enough for the foliage to die. Once you have removed all the leaves allow the soil in the pot to dry out. Gently brush off any excess dirt from the bulb. Do not wash the bulb, because this can add excess water to the bulb and cause it to rot.

Store your bulbs in a cool dry place until the ground has warmed up in the spring. Plant your tulips in an area that gets afternoon to full sun exposures. Plant tulips 6 to 8 inches deep and make sure you plant them pointy side up, otherwise the bulb will be upside down, and might not grow next spring. Once you have planted the bulbs your job is done until next spring, then all you have to do is enjoy the spring color.

IMIFLEX HERBICIDE RECEIVES EPA APPROVAL FOR IGROWTH GRAIN SORGHUM

Sarah Lancaster, Extension Weed Science Specialist
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As of late December, grain sorghum farmers have access to IMIFLEX™ herbicide to use in igrowth® grain sorghum for the 2021 growing season. IMIFLEX is sold by UPL® NA, Inc. and igrowth sorghum is sold by Alta® Seeds. igrowth grain sorghum is resistant to imazamox. Some may be familiar with imazamox as the active ingredient in Beyond, Raptor, and other herbicides. However, IMIFLEX is the only formulation of imazamox that will be labeled for use in igrowth grain sorghum. IMIFLEX is also labeled for use in alfalfa, dry beans and peas, and soybeans; however, it will not be marketed for other labelled crops this year.

What are the target weeds for this herbicide? IMIFLEX will be helpful for growers needing to control troublesome grasses such as large crabgrass and foxtail species when applied pre-emergence or early post-emergence to plants up to 3 inches tall. Interestingly, johnsongrass, and shattercane are not listed as controlled species. This is an important component of product stewardship, which will be discussed in more detail later in this document. Broadleaf weeds controlled by IMIFLEX include morningglories, velvetleaf and seedling bindweeds, as well as populations of pigweeds and kochia that are not ALS-resistant.

Herbicides use rates and rotation intervals—Use rates for IMIFLEX are 6 to 9 fl oz per acre pre-emergence or 6 fl oz per acre post-emergence. Post-emergence applications should occur before grain sorghum is 20 inches tall and target small, actively growing weeds. Applications of IMIFLEX must include an adjuvant (COC, MSO, HSOC, or NIS) and a nitrogen fertilizer (AMS or UAN). If tank mixing with dicamba or 2,4-D, NIS should be used instead of an oil-based surfactant to avoid crop injury. In addition, IMIFLEX should not be tank mixed with the herbicides metsulfuron-methyl, prosulfuron, or bromoxynil + pyrasulfotole or with organophosphate or carbamate insecticides (such as malathion or carbaryl). There are also some crop rotation intervals that impact crops grown in Kansas, including: 3 months to non-Clearfield wheat, 8 1/2 months to non-Clearfield corn, 9 months to cotton and sunflower, 18 months to non-igrowth grain sorghum, and 18 to 26 months to non-Clearfield canola.

Practice good stewardship—As mentioned earlier in the article, stewardship of IMIFLEX is very important – especially in terms of herbicide resistant weeds. Imazamox is Group 2 (ALS-inhibiting) herbicide in the imidazolinone (“imi”) family. Kochia, Palmer amaranth, waterhemp, common sunflower, and shattercane are among the weed species in Kansas that already have documented resistance to Group 2 herbicides. Mixing and rotating herbicides is one of the key practices that should be used to slow the development of herbicide resistance. In fact, IMIFLEX may only be applied one time per year and igrowth sorghum should not be planted in the same field two years in a row. Also, igrowth grain sorghum should not be planted in fields where ALS-resistant shattercane or johnsongrass exist.

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"WINNING THE GAME"
Grain Marketing Class

Speakers

Dan O'Brien - Northwest Ag Economist, KSU
Rich Llewellyn - Ag Economist, KSU
Mark Nelson - Kansas Farm Bureau

Feb. 9th • 12:30-5:30 pm

Belleville Fairgrounds, 4-H Building

Registration is required by Friday, Feb 5th
Sign up by going to River Valley or Post Rock Websites
Or www.bit.ly/387zMVr

There will also be a zoom link available if you want to join **Virtually**.

We will be following K-State's Covid-19 guidelines including masks and social distancing and with a limit of 50.

THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM IS A COLLABORATION WITH K-STATE RESEARCH AND
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Women in Agriculture

Farm Management Educational Series



Thursdays

February 11th – March 25th

5:00 pm–9:00 pm

KSDS East Building Meeting Room
124 W 7th Street Washington, KS 66968

We will be following KSRE Covid restrictions with the possibility of adapting the series to zoom meetings.

Who: Women in the agriculture industry who would like to advance their business and management skills to become more involved in a farming or ranching operation.

What: This seven-session course is limited to 15 participants.

When: Classes are held each Thursday afternoon February 11th to March 25th from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Dinner will be provided each session.

Where: KSDS East Building Meeting Room, 124 W 7th Street, WS

Cost: \$50.00

Contact the River Valley Extension Washington Office to RSVP

Phone: 785-325-2121

Session One - February 11th

- What type of gal are you?
- Telling Your Ag Story

Session Two - February 18th

- Precision Ag
- Cover Crops
- Horticulture Production
- Marketing and Risk Management

Session Three - February 25th

- EPD Basics
- Livestock Risk Management
- Livestock Photography

Session Four - March 4th

- Quick Books for Farm Record-keeping

Session Five - March 11th

- Beef Nutrition
- Sheep & Goat Basics

Session Six - March 18th

- RVED Lease Survey
- Crop Insurance
- FSA Programs

Session Seven - March 25th

- Global Ag Economy
- Farm Succession

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Search: Women In Ag

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2021 UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

DATE	TIME	PROGRAM	LOCATION
Feb. 4,	6:45pm	Living Well Together—Social Media 101	Virtual
Feb. 9	12:30-5:30pm	“Winning the Game” Marketing Class	Belleville-Fairgrounds
Feb. 11	6:45 p.m.	Living Well Together—Love Languages	Virtual
Feb. 11-Mar. 25	5pm	Women In Ag	Washington– KSDS East Bldg.
Feb. 18	6:45 p.m.	Living Well Together—Make Active Habits Stick	Virtual
Feb. 22-26		America Saves Week	
Feb. 25	6:45 p.m.	Living Well Together—Living Well with Diabetes	Virtual
Mar. 28-May 21		Walk Kansas	State Wide Program
April 13	9-3pm	Defensive Driving Course	Clay Center RVD Office