



River Valley District

K-STATE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION NEWS

rivervalley.ksu.edu

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Extension District

K-STATE
Research and Extension

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ksre.k-state.edu

K-State Winter Ranch Management Seminar

Tues., February 5, 2019

5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Minneapolis Grade School
(North Gymnasium Entrance)
312 Delia Ave
Minneapolis, KS



**“Strategies to mitigate environmental factors impacting reproduction” is the theme
of the 2019 Kansas State University Winter Ranch Management Series**

Topics

- Forage quality and availability impacts on beef cow-nutrition during late gestation and pre-breeding
- Environmental factors affecting conception rates
- Grazing cows in high grain environments and accelerating grower cattle on concentrate diets
- Town Hall Q & A with Extension Specialists and Agents

Meal sponsored by:



For more information or to **RSVP by Tuesday, January 29** contact:

Cade Rensink - Central Kansas District at (785) 392-2147 or crensink@ksu.edu
Barrett Simon - Post Rock District at (785) 378-3174 or barrett8@ksu.edu
Brett Melton - River Valley District at (785) 243-8185 or bmelton@ksu.edu
Clint Laflin - Midway District at (785) 483-3157 or cflaflin@ksu.edu



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 Cade Rensink, CKD Extension Agent, at (785) 392-2147.
Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service. K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

GET A PERSONAL ASSISTANT FOR YOUR COW-CALF OPERATION IN 2019

Most of our farming and ranching enterprises would welcome a little more help from time to time. That additional help can be hard to find or find with the skills desired. In other cases, hiring help may put too much strain on the budget. One-way cow/calf producers can make the time they do have go a bit further is by using an electronic personal assistant called the "Management Minder." It keeps track of key dates and activities as they relate to managing the herd and shows them to you on an electronic calendar. Reminders automatically pop-up on your smart phone based on your inputs. There is some investment of time initially to set it up, but from that point on, it's on the job working for you. You can find the Management Minder at www.KSUBeef.org/managementminder.

The Management Minder is specific for your particular calving and breeding schedule. If you start calving March 1, it will remind you to start nighttime feeding to promote daytime calving on Feb. 15. If you are going to use an insect growth regulator as part of your fly control program, feeding should start by the last week in March for SE KS and by the first week in April in NW KS to be most effective. The Management Minder provides a reminder in case you are not thinking about fly control when you are making mineral purchases in March.

The Minder will also prompt you to take body condition scores at key times of the year. Measuring body condition is critical to managing feed costs and performance. Based on the weaning date you set, it will allow you to plan a vaccination schedule and provide reminders to have all supplies ordered well in advance of the planned vaccination.

For some things, the exact day the item is addressed (i.e. assess cow body condition at weaning) may not be critical. Rather it is more important that the scores are collected and recorded. Some of us are experts at putting things off and at some point, there can be a significant cost to doing so. The prime example is the weight cows need to put on during the third trimester to account for fetal growth. It is easier and cheaper to feed a cow to gain 150 pounds in 90 days, rather than in 30 days. Each day delayed requires a slightly higher rate of gain. This is just one example of a date that can slip by us with tremendous negative consequences.

So how do you find and use the Management Minder? Go to www.KSUBeef.org/managementminder. The first step is to register for an account. This allows you to roll your dates over to the next year and or share with your veterinarian or other team members. Select the items you want to include in your calendar, email program output to yourself, and import into Outlook, Google, or Yahoo calendars. You can print the calendar and or use it on your computer and smart phone. The program's opening page contains a user guide and list of items you can include in your calendar.

Sandy Johnson, Extension Beef Specialist, KSU

EVENING FEEDING REGIME FOR SPRING CALVING HERDS

Now is the time to begin feeding your herd in the evening. Some reading this column may be asking, "Why would I need to do this?" The answer is simple, it will make cows and heifers more likely to calve during daylight hours. Even though the answer is simple, the explanation is not well understood.

Many studies have investigated this phenomenon and the overwhelming majority of the studies agree: evening feeding of spring-calving cows and heifers will increase the likelihood of calving during the day. A study from the Kansas State University Agricultural Research Center at Hays started evening feedings (between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.) two weeks prior to the expected calving date. They spent five years collecting data, used 201 unique animals, and had 537 observations. The results of this study had 85.4% of the animals calving between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. While 14.6% of the animals calved between 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

The University of Idaho did a similar study over a 15-year period using 256 different cows, and they recorded 1,210 observations. The main difference of this study, and the Kansas State study (besides the geographical location) was feedings were at ad libitum levels in the morning (between 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.).

The results of this study showed 52.1% of the animals calved between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and 47.9% of animals calved between 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. A more detailed analysis of these two studies was compiled by John Jaeger, Beef Cattle Scientist at Kansas State Agriculture Research Center in Hays. John and the other authors concluded, "Providing feed in the late after-noon to spring-calving beef cows may result in a greater number of calves born during daylight hours, which could assist producers in reducing mortality associated with dystocia due to lack of herdsman assistance during night-time hours."

If you haven't fed your spring-calving cows in the evenings in the past, and if your schedule allows, try switching to an evening regime. This of course will not eliminate those late nights and early morning heifer checks. However, if we can get more animals calving during the daylight when labor and visibility are on our side, we can potentially save some calves.

If you have any questions about switching over to an evening routine, please stop by the K-State Research and Extension Office in Concordia, call 785-243-8185, or email bmelton@ksu.edu.



PROTECTING YOUR HERD FROM THEFT

“Two Arrested for Cattle Theft in Cherokee County,” “Hill County Man Jailed for Livestock Theft on \$1 Million Bond,” “50 Head of Cattle Stolen from Aurora Ranch,” “Man Faces Cattle Theft, Drug Charges in Robeson County.” These are some of the recent (December 2018 and January 2019) headlines involving cattle theft. Cattle rustling has been around in the United States since the days of the Wild West, and it continues today for many of the same reasons. Most of the time, cattle are not near populated areas and can be taken in the dark of night undetected. Prices of cattle are not what they were in 2014, but keep in mind when someone steels cattle they are typically sold soon after, so the criminals receive virtually 100% profit.

The likelihood of your herd being subjected to theft is small, but there are some things we can do to help reduce the risk of theft and to recover stolen animals.

1. Have a permeant ID system. Ear tags are not a sufficient form of ID for stolen cattle. If your animals are stolen, one of the first things that will happen is all ear tags will be cut off and tossed in the ditch. Kendal Lothman, Livestock Investigator for the Kansas Attorney General’s Office, recommends having a freeze brand or a hot iron brand on your animals. These cannot be removed and are difficult to alter. Lothman says freeze branded cattle are rarely stolen. He compares it to steeling an all-black truck with a white door – it sticks out.
2. Put a pad lock on your gates. The purpose of this is two-fold. The obvious one is to keep people out and deter them from entering the property. Though, they could simply cut the chain or lock with bulk cutters with ease. However, next time you go check your cattle it will be obvious someone was on your property with a cut chain laying on the ground. This doesn’t mean they stole your cattle, but you can count your heard immediately to see if any are missing. The sooner you realize something has happened, the better chance of you have of recovering any missing animals.
3. Look for unusual animal behavior. For example, if your cattle are on pasture and you normally have to go look for them over the hill and one day they come running to your truck. It’s possible someone is baiting your animals. Pay attention to what your animals are telling you.
4. Don’t check your cattle at the same time every day. Thieves will do their homework and make note of “Farmer John” who checks his cattle every evening just before dark and doesn’t return until the next morning.
5. Don’t build pens right next to the road. This is something you often see, and you may even have in your pastures. This makes it easy for criminals to bait your cattle and to load them out in a short period of time.

I am not trying to incite panic by any means. However, this crime does continue to happen and like any tragedy, it could happen to you.

LANDLORD/TENANT RELATIONS— A “TWO-WAY STREET”

I have had several phone calls in the Concordia office lately pertaining to land lease questions, terminating leases, land rental rates, etc. Moreover, at our annual River Valley District Lease Survey meeting, Dr. Mykel Taylor gave some relevant insight into what she sees as a major issue with many of our lease arrangements. It boils down to a lack of communication. Dr. Mykel Taylor spoke rhetorically asking the folks attending the meeting posing such questions as, “Tenants, how many times have you offered your landlord a ride around their property to show what you have been doing/ working on...?” “Landlords, imagine going from \$100,000 net income to \$1,000 net income in less than 12 months.”

Just as many “old-timers” have told me, “Education, gives the lesson first followed by the test, while experience gives the test followed by the lesson.” I will humbly tell you today, that each is important, both experience and education, just as communication both ways are important in a Landlord/Tenant relationship. Speaking from experience from when I was younger I have witnessed firsthand the changes and impacts, as seen from a tenant’s perspective, resulting from the loss of ground and how it impacts one’s standard of living. Albeit, many of these extenuating circumstances cannot be controlled, more effective communication may have helped to alleviate some of the issues along the way. Talking with many tenants, landlords, and extension professionals for Kansas State Research and Extension, I have concluded that the following are effective ways of communicating between Landlords/Tenants:

- Tenants-a pickup ride around the properties you rent from said landlord, may take up a morning or afternoon, but it shows your ultimate intent and emphasizes that you wish to fulfill your Landlord’s desires for the land, all the while displaying your intent to be a good steward of the land.
- Tenants-choose a medium of communication that suits your landlord. Adjust according to their age and knowledge of agriculture. For example, if your landlord is an not technology savvy, a “handwritten” letter in the mail with some pictures shows the extra time and effort you have put towards being a good tenant in the eyes of your landlord.
- Landlords-communication with your tenants on what they see as needs for the land (i.e. structural improvement, maintenance, fertility program, etc.) as well as other landlord/tenant arrangements regarding inputs is essential.
- Landlords-communicate with your tenant punctually, clearly, and effectively if you are planning on altering, terminating, or have other changes in mind regarding the lease or the land.

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

SORGHUM PRODUCTION SCHOOL

Last year, we were very fortunate to have several, close opportunities for K-State crop production trainings in close proximity to the River Valley Extension District and even an excellent sorghum school that we were honored to host in Washington County. This year, we are very fortunate to have a Crop Production School close to the River Valley District. If you happened to miss last year's Sorghum School in Washington County, our neighbors to the south, in the Central Kansas District, will be hosting a Sorghum Production School on February 7. At the 4-H Building Saline County Expo Center, 900 Greeley Ave., Salina.

SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m.	Registration
9:00 a.m.	Welcome
9:15 a.m.	Weed Control- Marshall Hay
9:55 a.m.	Crop Production- Dr. Ignacio Ciampitti Dr. Stu Duncan
10:30 a.m.	Break
11:00 a.m.	Fertility- Dr. Dorivar Ruiz Diaz
11:30 a.m.	Insects- Dr. Jeff Whitworth
Noon	Lunch
12:30 p.m.	Update on Sorghum Checkoff
1:00 p.m.	Market Outlook- Dr. Dan O'Brien
1:30 p.m.	Adjourn

Lunch will be provided courtesy of the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission. There is no cost to attend, but participants are asked to pre-register by January 29. Register online at K-State Sorghum Schools (<http://bit.ly/KSUSorghum>) or by calling the Central Kansas District-Salina Office at 785-309-5850.

For any Crop Production questions, contact Tyler Husa in Concordia at 785-243-8185, by email at thusa@ksu.edu.

TREE PRUNING WORKSHOP FEBRUARY 13, 2019 BELLEVILLE

River Valley Extension District is partnering with the Kansas Forest Service to offer a tree pruning workshop to be held in Belleville at the 4-H building on the NCK Free Fairgrounds. This training will provide hands-on experience about how to properly prune ornamental trees. We will be showing the proper way to prune a tree and then participants will get the chance to practice those pruning techniques and ask any question they may have regarding tree care.

This training will begin at 3:00pm on Wednesday, February 13th and conclude at 4:30pm. This is an outside event so participants should dress for working outside. Please bring your own gloves and eye protection. Tools will be provided but attendees may bring their own.

This event is offered at no cost and is open to the public. Participants are asked to RSVP by Monday February 11th. Registration will be limited to 12 people. Reserve your spot by calling the River Valley Extension Office at 785-325-2121 or by emailing Horticulture Agent, Kelsey Hatesohl at khatesohl@ksu.edu.

LAWN CALENDAR FOR WARM-SEASON GRASSES

The following calendar is suggestions for the management of warm-season grasses such as Zoysiagrass and Bermudagrass.

March- Spot treat broadleaf weeds if necessary. Be sure to treat on a day that is 50°F or warmer. Don't apply if rain is predicted within 24 hours of application.

April- Apply crabgrass preventer between April 1 and April 15, or apply preventer when the eastern redbud tree is approaching full bloom. If using a product with prodiamine (Barricade), apply two weeks earlier. Crabgrass preventers must be watered in before they will start to work. Remember that a good, thick lawn is the best weed prevention.

May-August 15- Fertilize with 1 lb. of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per application. Follow the recommendations on the bag. More applications will give a deeper green color, but will increase mowing and lead to thatch buildup with zoysiagrass. Bermudagrass can also have problems with thatch buildup, but is less likely.

Bermudagrass- Use two to four fertilizer applications

Zoysiagrass- Use one to two fertilizer applications

The following provide timings for the various applications:

One application: June

Two applications: May and July

Three applications: May, June, and early August

Four applications: May, June, July, and early August

June- If grubs have been a problem in the past, apply a product containing imidacloprid by mid-July. Imidacloprid can be applied as early as mid-May if there are problems with billbugs or May beetle grubs. These products kill the grubs before they cause damage. They are effective and safe but must be watered in before they become active. June is a good time to core aerate a warm-season lawn. Core aeration will help alleviate compaction, increase the rate of water infiltration, improve soil air exchange and help control thatch.

Late-July through August- If you see grub damage, apply a grub killer. If imidacloprid has been applied, this should not be necessary. Grub killers must be watered in.

Late October- Spray for broadleaf weeds if they are a problem. Treat on a day that is at least 50°F. Don't apply if rain is predicted within 24 hours of application. When using fertilizers be sure to use the label rate recommended for application of the product you are using.

If you have any questions contact Kelsey Hatesohl in the Washington office, 785-325-2121 or khatesohl@ksu.edu.

**River Valley District Offices
Will be closed on Wednesday,
February 27, 2019
For Staff CPR Training
Sorry for any inconvenience**

LAWN CALENDAR FOR COOL-SEASON GRASSES

The following calendar is suggestions for management of cool-season grasses such as Kentucky bluegrass or tall fescue in home lawns.

March- Spot treat broadleaf weeds if necessary. Be sure to treat on a day that is 50°F or warmer. Don't apply if rain is predicted within 24 hours of application.

April- Apply crabgrass preventer when redbud trees are in full bloom. The preventer needs to be watered in before it will start to work. One- quarter inch of water will be enough to water in any of the products mentioned in this calendar. Remember that a good, thick lawn is the best weed prevention.

May- Fertilize with a slow-release fertilizer if you water your lawn or if you normally receive enough rainfall that your turf doesn't go drought-dormant during the summer. If there are broadleaf weeds, spot treat with a spray or use a fertilizer that includes a weed killer. Rain or irrigation within 24 hours of application will reduce effectiveness of the weed killer, but the fertilizer needs to be watered in. If you are using a product that has both fertilizer and weed killer, wait 24 hours after application before watering in.

June through Mid-July- Apply second round of crabgrass preventer by June 15- unless you are using Dimension (dithiopyr) or Barricade (proflam) for the April application. These two products normally provide season-long control with a single application. Remember to water it in. If grubs have been a problem in the past, apply a product containing imidacloprid during the first half of July. This works to prevent grub damage. It must be watered in before it becomes active.

Late-July through August- If you see grub damage, apply a grub killer that contains Dylox. Imidacloprid is effective against young grubs but may not be effective on later instar grubs. The grub killer containing Dylox must be watered in within 24 hours or effectiveness drops.

September- Fertilize around Labor Day. This is the most important fertilization of the year. Be sure to water after you apply the fertilizer.

November- Fertilize. This fertilizer is taken up by the roots but is not used until the following spring. Water in fertilizer. Spray for broadleaf weeds even if they are small. Broadleaf weeds are much easier to control in the fall than in the spring. Try to spray on a day that is at least 50°F. Don't apply if rain is predicted within 24 hours of application. When using fertilizers be sure to use the label rate recommended for application of the product you are using.

If you have any questions contact Kelsey Hatesohl in the Washington office, 785-325-2121 or khatesohl@ksu.edu.

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.

To help keep floral arrangements longer follow these easy three steps:

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 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 flower food 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 when all you have to do is enjoy the spring color.

If you have any questions contact Kelsey Hatesohl in the in the Washington office, 785-325-2121 or khatesohl@ksu.edu.

Prescribed Burning Workshop

WHEN: Monday, February 25, 2019
TIME: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
WHERE: Old Barnes School Building
211 N. Main
Barnes, KS 66933
TOPICS: Techniques and Planning
Reasons for Burning
Weather Considerations
COST: \$15 per person (payable at the door)
LUNCH: Included with registration
(Let us know if you have dietary restrictions)
RSVP To: Brett Melton, Livestock Production Agent
Phone: 785-243-8185
Email: bmelton@ksu.edu
RSVP By: Monday, February 18



ENGENIA 2019 TRAINING

Date: Wednesday, February 6th, 2019
Place: United Methodist Church Family Life Center
Clay Center, KS
Time: 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
RSVP: Register for the training at:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/engenia-training-tickets-54929729299>

Sponsored by: BASF Agricultural Solutions
Questions: **Sean Mills**
Business Representative
BASF Agricultural Solutions
Phone: 785-263-3497
Mobile: 785-213-7606
E-Mail: sean.mills@basf.com

This workshop will satisfy the 2019 Producer Herbicide Training Requirements.

FARM FINANCIAL CRISIS AFFECTS ON MENTAL HEALTH

The difficult ag economy is placing rural America under extreme stress. For many the pressures can have adverse affects on their general health and well-being. Unfortunately, mental health issues and treatments have for too long carried a stigma that we must work to erase. For those individuals and their families that are suffering from depression, thoughts of suicide, anxiety, psychosis, or substance abuse it is vital that they reach out for help.

The River Valley Extension District is gearing up to offer assistance in Farm Stress, Mental Health First Aid, and the development of a Culture of Health in our district.

In the meantime, don't feel alone! Please call any River Valley District office and ask for an Extension Agent. Call Pawnee Mental Health at 1-800-609-2002 or call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-8255(TALK). Help is just a phone call away!

STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR BOARD LEADERSHIP SERIES

You have been appointed or elected to a community Board, now what? Many of us find ourselves in that situation and asking that very question. To address this question, K-State Research and Extension will be offering a Board Leadership Series. The four-week series is designed to provide an opportunity to give community-based boards — elected, appointed, or recognized by local units of government — affordable training for their members that is necessary to be effective and efficient with their responsibilities.

The series will be held the four Tuesdays in February from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the FNB Bank Meeting room in Washington. Each Session will focus on the following topics:

- February 5** Roles & Responsibilities of Board Members/ Effective Meetings
- February 12** Fiscal Responsibilities, Fundraising, and Legal and Ethical Issues
- February 19** Understanding Fellow Board Members/ Conflict Resolution
- February 26** Strategic Planning

All sessions will be conducted through a “high tech/high touch” approach at K-State Research and Extension locations across the state for interactive participation!

Pre-registration is required. Each \$40 registration buys one seat for the series which includes all materials and a light meal each session. Seat may be rotated by participants! (Ex: 1 person attends all four or 4 people attend 1 session each) Please make note of any special dietary restrictions at time of registration. Registration may be paid at the first session or by mailing to River Valley District, 322 Grant Avenue, Clay Center, KS 67432. To register or ask questions contact John Forshee by calling the River Valley District, Washington Office at 785-325-2121, by email at jforshee@ksu.edu or by texting/calling 785-447-1291 by Monday, February 4, 2019.

2018 KANSAS CUSTOM RATES

The Kansas Department of Agriculture and the Kansas State University Department of Agricultural Economics recently published the 2018 Kansas Custom Rates Survey Summary.

The publication contains custom rate survey results broken down either by Western, Central, and Eastern Kansas or by the Crop Reporting Districts of NW, NC, NE, WC, C, EC, SW, SC, and SE Kansas.

Custom rates are reported for the following: grain harvesting, seed cleaning, grain hauling, haying, rotary mowing, tree shearing, land tillage, planting, chemical applications, feed preparation, feed delivery, machinery rental, terracing and dozing, manure removal and spreading, livestock hauling, and fence building.

The 2018 Kansas Custom Rates may be picked up at any River Valley District Office or is available on-line at www.Agmanager.info.

2018 RVED LEASE SURVEY SUMMARY

The River Valley Extension District recently completed the a lease survey and has compiled the information in the 2018 River Valley Extension District Lease Survey Summary.

The summary is written by River Valley District Agents John Forshee, Tyler Husa, and Brett Melton as well as K-State Extension Ag Economist, Dr. Mykel Taylor. Topics include: Pasture Lease Summary, Crop Lease Summary, Labor Survey Summary, Trends in Leases and Values of Ag Land in Kansas, and an overview of lease resources available.

The summary paper is available at any River Valley District office or online at <http://www.rivervalley.k-state.edu/>

The survey is conducted by the River Valley District and is sponsored by Kansas Crossroads Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.

Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services

The current Agricultural Economy has ag producers and agricultural lenders facing difficult financial situations and decisions. The Kansas Agricultural Mediation Service offers confidential assistance for Kansas farm and ranch families, business partners, and their ag lenders as they explore options and generate solutions in difficult financial times. KAMS can explore options for ag credit issues, loan restructures, farm foreclosures, appeals of USDA Farm Service Agency decisions, USDA Rural Development loans, NRCS decisions, Risk Management Agency concerns, ag law questions and concerns, farm financial concerns, family communication issues, farm leases questions, paperwork clarification, and so much more.

Don't struggle through farm stress alone. For help with any farm financially related issues, contact KAMS at 1-800-321-FARM or www.ksre.k-state.edu/kams

CONSERVATION TREE ORDERS

The Kansas Forest Service (KFS) is now taking orders for spring delivery of conservation tree and shrub seedlings. The Kansas Forest Service's Conservation Tree Planting Program offers tree and shrub seedlings, as well as other items for use in conservation plantings. Plantings may function as wildlife habitat, windbreaks, wood lots, timber plantations, or Christmas tree farms, and riparian (streambank) plantings.

The spring distribution offers both bare-root and container-grown seedlings for sale. Orders for 2019 are accepted from **December 3** through **May 1**. Orders are shipped or picked up beginning in Mid-March - depending on the weather—with final pick-up May 1. Other items include marking flags, rabbit protective tubes, root protective slurry, tree tubes, weed barrier fabric squares, and weed barrier pins. Bare-root trees are \$25 per 25 while container grown trees are \$55 per 25 trees. Stratified black walnut and pecans seeds are \$13 per 100 seeds.

Order forms are available at all K-State Research & Extension offices or can be completed on-line on the KFS website at: www.kansasforests.org/conservation_trees/

For more information call the KFS at 1-888-740-8733.

LOCAL GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Hansen Foundation Grants

For those 26 counties in NC and NW Kansas that are in the Hansen Foundation area a couple of grant opportunities exist.

Local Community Foundation Grants—The Hansen Foundation has provided funds to local community foundations to be awarded for smaller projects. Republic and Cloud County both have local community Foundations and so qualifying organizations can apply to these local community foundations for grants awarded in \$5,000 increments. See their websites for details and all their grant opportunities.

Republic Co.: <http://republiccountycf.org/>

Cloud Co.: <http://communityfoundationforcloudcounty.org/>

Hansen Foundation Grants—For larger projects, qualifying organizations may apply directly to the Hansen Foundation. The goal of these grants is to improve the quality of life in our small rural communities in the area. The grant information and applications may be found at the Dane G. Hansen Foundation website:

https://danehansenfoundation.org/?page_id=975

Kansas Crossroads RC&D Mini-Grants

The Kansas Crossroads Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. offers mini-grants in the \$100 to \$500 range to help communities and organizations get projects started. The group also offers \$500 grants for park improvements. Contact John Forshee for a one-page, form-fillable, pdf application.

River Valley Extension DistrictWashington Office
214 C. Street, Courthouse
Washington, KS 66968-1928**NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
WASHINGTON, KS
PERMIT NO. 3****Address Service Requested****RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT
“2019 UP-COMING MEETINGS & EVENTS”**

DATE	TIME	PROGRAM	LOCATION
Feb. 5	5:30-8:30pm	K-State Winter Ranch Management Seminar	Minneapolis- Grade School, 312 Delia Ave.
Feb. 6	9:30-11:30am	Engenia 2019 Training	Clay Center-United Methodist Church Family Life Center
Feb.5,12,19,26	6-8pm	Board Leadership Series	Washington-FNB Basement
Feb. 7	8:30-1:30pm	Sorghum Production School	Salina-4-H Bldg, Saline Co. Expo Center, 900 Greeley
Feb. 13	3pm	Tree Pruning Workshop	Belleville-4-H Building, NCK Fairgrounds
Feb. 21-Mar. 28	3:30-8:30pm	Women in Ag Series	Belleville-Ad Astra Bank Basement
Feb.25	10am-3pm	Prescribed Burn Workshop	Barnes-Old School Bldg.-211 N. Main
Mar.	TBD	Spring Pre-plant Workshop	TBD
Mar. 12	10am	Choose Wisely for Health and Wealth	Concordia-Courthouse Mtg. Room
Mar. 12	2pm	Choose Wisely for Health and Wealth	Belleville-Extension Office Mtg. Room
Mar. 13	10am	Choose Wisely for Health and Wealth	Washington- Extension Office Mtg. Room
Mar. 13	2pm	Choose Wisely for Health and Wealth	Clay Center- Extension Office Mtg. Room
Mar. 17-May 11		Walk KS	State Wide Program