



4-H'ers showcase project work at State Fair

By Lucas Shivers

More than one thousand 4-H youth from all corners of Kansas come together each year for two weeks after Labor Day to showcase and compete at the Kansas State Fair, running September 5-14, 2014.

"Agriculture and 4-H members are the root of the fair," said Lori Hart, assistant manager. "It's the tradition that makes us different from other events. Without 4-H'ers, we'd be just a festival."

Hart visited several county fairs including Cherokee County, and she reported that the numbers looked strong. 4-H'ers at a certain age must earn high ribbons and placements in their local fairs before qualifying for the Kansas State Fair.

"We are excited to see the traditions continue," Hart said. "As demands and interest change in youth across the state, 4-H will investigate their options to participate and allow high-quality exhibits to move on to the State Fair."

While new events like

spelling bees, arm wrestling and marching bands make the fair bigger and better, the steadfast custom of 4-H projects continues to inspire and promote positive youth development.

"4-H is a great place to engage in new experiences and find friends within a leadership setting," said Kelly Wendland, Randolph Ramblers 4-H Club community leader. "The State Fair helps 4-H'ers promote and get insight into their projects. There's no better place for (youth) to grow and develop."

Along with traditional staple events like the midway of games and rides and the butter sculpture, 4-H exhibits are a bedrock of the event. A local fair in Hutchinson, dating back to the 1870s, become the present-day Kansas State Fair, and the event was recognized by an act of the state legislature in 1903.

"There is a level of pride to be able to show at the State Fair," Wendland said. "I remember when I was in 4-H and got to go the state fair with projects. It's tak-

ing things to the next level to show the effort of their hard work."

Nissa Olsen, a four-year 4-H member of the Randolph Ramblers 4-H Club in Riley County, will be showing two Charolais at the Kansas State Fair; one named Amanda and the other Pristine, or Prissy for short.

"It was hard to break them to lead because they didn't want to cooperate, but I worked with them," said Olsen, whose grandfather owns a ranch. "Over

enough time, they slowly came around and got used to it."

At the local Riley County Fair, Olsen earned grand champion with Amanda and reserve champion with Prissy. She was also named the reserve champion in showmanship.

"They were a little jumpy because of the cooler weather, but I stayed calm and nothing went wrong," Olsen said.

While Olsen has volunteered and helped with shows at the Kansas State

Fair before, this will be her first opportunity to show.

"I've never shown before at the State Fair, and

this is a great year to start because it's the fiftieth anniversary of the Charolais

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Riley County 4-H member Nissa Olsen will show two Charolais at the State Fair.



This Spring Cleaning quilt constructed by Clay County 4-Her Haley Bulk is one of the many exhibits Kansas youth will be taking to the Kansas State Fair.

Get On A Stick and soak in the knowledge at the 2014 Kansas State Fair

From animals to agriculture, crafts to cowboys, the Kansas State Fair is a one-of-a-kind educational event that no student should miss. Whether educators bring their class to the Fair or bring agriculture to their students, the Fair offers a substantial number of learning opportunities.

"The Kansas State Fair is more than a source of entertainment," says Denny Stoecklein, Kansas State Fair's general manager. "It provides a platform of agricultural education for fairgoers of all ages."

The programs scheduled throughout the Fair give opportunities to learn about the often forgotten or taken for granted agriculture practices.

S.T.E.A.M. Ahead Program

The S.T.E.A.M. Ahead program provides educators and fairgoers with hands-on agricultural activities that align with state standard curriculum while educating

students about agriculture. S.T.E.A.M. stands for science, technology, engineering, art and math. This year's lessons will feature second and fourth grade mathematics activities taught through the use of agriculture. These activities are available at kansasstatefair.com and are identified with S.T.E.A.M. Ahead signage throughout the Fairgrounds.

Scholastic Press Corps

High school students from across the state have the chance to put their journalism and video production skills to the test in the Scholastic Press Corps program. Students are put in realistic job scenarios by covering specific stories on a tight deadline. As part of the program, students create a four-page newsletter or four-minute video for a broad audience. Industry professionals volunteer time to rank the various entries and participants are invited to attend an awards

banquet in October. Teams consist of no more than five students to compete. The program is in high demand and full for the 2014 Fair. Kansas High Schools from Wichita, Kansas City, Phillipsburg, Riley and others plan to compete for the prestigious honors. In addition, Kansas Collegiate photography students will be charged with documenting the Fair through photos. Students are mentored through the Scholastic Press Corps program and eventually compete for the People's Choice Award.

Kansas' Largest Classroom

The Kansas' Largest Classroom program supplies teachers with all of the materials they need for a successful field trip to the Fair, including lesson plans. Educators can explore every inch of the Kansas State Fair or design a field trip around a specific subject. For example, second grade math students can

gain hands-on practice with graphics that meet State Standards for Math 2.MD.10: draw a picture graph and a bar graph (with single-unit scale) to represent a data set up to four categories. While at the Kansas State Fair, teachers can ask their classes to create a bar graph representing the different weight of pumpkins found in the Pride of Kansas Building.

To view additional lesson plans, please visit bit.ly/1lhfnwg.

Agriland

While on the Fairgrounds, students can visit Agriland in the Pride of Kansas Building. Agriland helps children understand how Kansas crops and livestock provide us not only with food, but also with numerous other items we use in our everyday lives, from basketballs to bubblegum. Children can weigh themselves on a livestock scale, comparing their weight to the weight of a calf or other

young animals. They can view growing crops, touch the various grains, and "drive" a combine. The time to experience Agriland is roughly 20 minutes and it's open from 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

Birthing Center

Calves, ewes and chicks are born everyday during the course of the Fair. Students are given the opportunity to learn about this process and even get to hold

some of the baby animals at times. This year, the Birthing Center will feature a new duck pond. Video cameras, television monitors and a P.A. system help students in all areas of the Center see and hear what's happening in the pens.

To learn more about the educational opportunities at the Kansas State Fair, please visit kansasstatefair.com.



Judge Lindsay Upperman selected Blaine Benfer's entry as the grand champion dairy heifer at the Clay County Fair. Blaine was also tapped as the junior grand champion dairy showman.



Ryan Benfer showed the reserve champion dairy heifer at the Clay County Fair and was also named the intermediate grand champion dairy showman.

BCI launches new animal care training website

If you've been to the Animal Care Training website lately, you'll notice it has a new look.

Animal Care Training (ACT), an online training program hosted by the Beef Cattle Institute (BCI) at Kansas State University has incurred a significant amount of growth since its start in 2009, giving the website considerable grounds for an upgrade.

The Animal Care Training program (www.animalcaretraining.org) was developed to educate English and Spanish-speaking beef and dairy producers, animal transporters, livestock auction market employees and bovine veterinarians. Web-based audiovisual training modules in English and Spanish feature topics such as animal husbandry, animal welfare, environmental stewardship and food safety practices.

The site is currently home to more than 200 online training modules for beef producers and 400 continuing education modules for veterinarians. The program is the result of collaborations with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, American Association

of Bovine Practitioners and Livestock Marketing Association, with the BCI at Kansas State University.

One of the first changes you'll notice when navigating the site is the new logo that headlines the home page. The symbol of the two hands is meant to emphasize the care the program is taking towards animals in addition to the content taught to users in the training modules.

Arthi Subramanian, website developer for the BCI, has been instrumental in the work of creating a new interface of the ACT website. According to Subramanian, once the issues were identified it was easier to make a plan.

"One of the primary issues we identified with the old website was that it was not user-friendly and lacked mobile compatibility. Users had difficulty navigating to Web pages and playing videos in the modules," she said. "This led the BCI to discuss as a group the need for a new website that allowed users to access on handheld devices with minimum scrolling."

After major concerns with the site were ad-

dressed, the team decided on an overall design. In addition to streamlined navigation, modules are also highlighted by more colorful and visually appealing graphics.

"We started developing a few prototype designs and decided as a team the design we liked best for the home page, keeping in mind the different audiences for the site," Subramanian said.

Creating a more visually appealing layout for the user while maintaining the primary function and purpose of the online training site was key in the planning process. Kelly Oliver, project coordinator for the BCI, described the options available.

"Animal Care Training is a user-friendly site set up for producers to keep track of their training and certifications," she said. "All users need to register individually. However, if a user has multiple employees, they have the option to register all employees in one group under their username in addition to the individual registration. This gives the user the ability to purchase training for and keep track of training and certifica-

tions for the employees." In addition to the unveiling of the website, Animal Care Training is host to new training offerings. Recently released is Dr. Tom Noffsinger's Animal Handling Training that focuses on teachings of Dr. Noffsinger and his experience working with feedyards and ranches on low-stress cattle handling. Also highlighted on the ACT site is the Beef and Dairy Cow Health and Welfare Training.

To view the new website and featured training modules, visit www.animalcaretraining.org.



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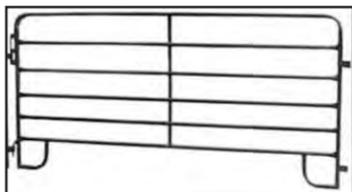
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Great fair foods aren't the only reason to Get On A Stick at the Kansas State Fair

Air Conditioning On A Stick. Food On A Stick. Quilt On A Stick. You get the idea. This year at the Kansas State Fair, there are plenty of activities that are on a stick to enjoy. The infamous Pronto Pup won't be the only fried 'n' joy to relish on a stick at this year's Kansas State Fair. Traditional favorites, seafood and creative concoctions can be found throughout the fairgrounds.

From clothing contests to strolling acts, fairgoers are encouraged to post their favorite #GetOnASTick moment on social media. And, don't forget to pick up a commemorative "On A Stick" T-shirt. Official merchandise for the Kansas State Fair can be purchased at the Fountain Building.

It's More Than Just Food
Beyond the fried 'n' joy on a stick, there are many more reasons to visit the fairgrounds, including competitive activities and special events.

Competitive Events
A special contest called "Quilt On A Stick" encourages participants to create a hand- or machine-stitched 8 inch by 9 inch quilt square that will be displayed on a paint stick, following the theme "Something You See at the Fair."

If you'd rather "stick" to food, the Kansas State Fair will feature a new and excit-

ing cake pop decorating contest that highlights decorations that fit within the "Get On A Stick" theme. Or, the Governor's Cookie Jar theme this year is "Anything On A Stick." Contestants decorate one-gallon cookie jars and fill them with nine varieties of cookies. The winner of this contest will present his or her cookie jar to the governor of Kansas at the Domestic Arts Demonstration Kitchen on Governor's Day, Thursday, September 11.

"Talent On A Stick" can be found on the fairgrounds as Kansas Kids Got Talent debuts at this year's Kansas State Fair, sponsored by ONE MAIN Financial. Children ages 4 to 16 will be able to show off their skills for prizes and titles, including Kansas State Fair's Most Talented Kid. Video auditions are accepted from June 1 to August 8. Judges will then narrow the entries to the top 30, which will be invited to the Kansas State Fair for live auditions. The final round consists of the top eight from the live auditions, who will move on to the final round Sunday, September 14.

If you're looking for an escape from the heat, drop by the Agriculture Building to explore the Scarecrows On A Stick competitive entries. And don't forget to grab hand-held fans that

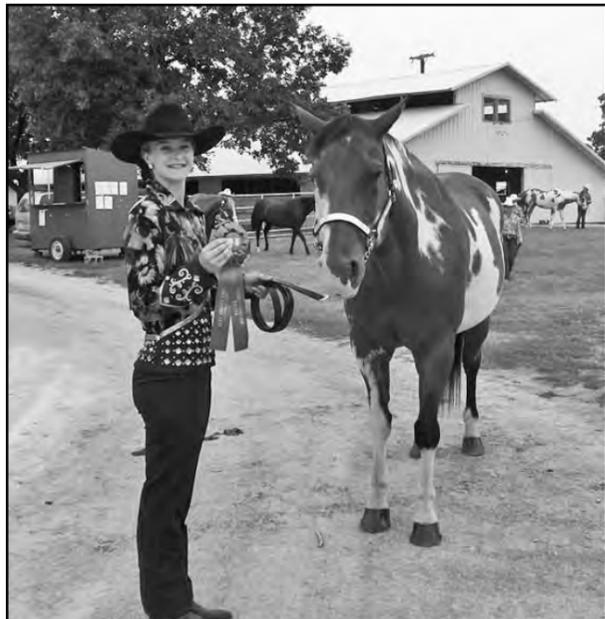
will provide fairgoers a relief from the heat: Air Conditioning On A Stick.

Entertainment
Providing laughs and fun for the whole family, fairgoers should keep their eyes peeled for the Clown On A Stick (stilt walker) while roaming the fairgrounds this year. Be sure to also stop by Gottschalk Park to see the Diver On A Stick - the Daredevil High Dive Show that will be featured daily at the Kansas State Fair.

Art
The 2014 Do Art project and theme is "Bugs On A Stick." Located in the Do Art building, this program provides children the opportunity to explore art in a hands-on environment, creating creepy-crawling bugs on sticks, while they increase their self-understanding and personal enrichment. Over 4,000 children of all ages participate in this program and create their own masterpieces each year.

Wind Energy
Fairgoers can discover how Energy On A Stick (wind energy) works. Homeowners can learn about micro-generation, while landowners can better understand wind leases and responsible development of utility-scale wind projects. Energy On A Stick can also be experienced at the 2014 Energy Expo located in the Ad Astra Pavilion.

Philanthropy
Get On A Stick and do something for your community. The Kansas State Fair and Matthew West invite groups to get excited about doing something to better others and aid in philanthropic efforts across the state. Whether they plan a day to clean a park, help out at a local shelter, volunteer at a Food Bank or champion a cause of some kind, groups are encouraged to enter a contest for a chance to win a reward and night at the Kansas State Fair, Wednesday, September 10.



Emily Ebert was the Clay County Fair's senior high point winner in the judged horse events.



Emma Smith was the intermediate high point winner in the timed horse events at the Clay County Fair.

River Valley 4-H livestock team wins RCFF contest

Eight members of the River Valley 4-H Livestock Judging Team participated in the annual Rooks County Free Fair Livestock Judging Contest on Friday, August 15 in Stockton with team one coming home with first place honors.

Wyatt Durst was the first place individual in the senior division of the contest and led the team in both placings and reasons with a total score of 386. Luke Martin trailed by just nine points and was the fifth high individual in the contest with a score of 375. Andrew Tiemeyer had a solid showing and the third score on the team with 362 points earning 8th place overall in the senior division. Team one was rounded out by Jefferson Simmons with a score of 358.

Team two was led by Ty Stewart with a score of 354 and was rounded out by team members Levi Gauby, Jack Gilliam, and Ben Jensen.

The teams were coached by River Valley District Director John Forshee and Washington County High School Agriculture Instructor, John Kern.



Adam Ebert earned senior high points in the timed horse events at the Clay County Fair.

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Former WSU MBA director to lead Sedgwick County Extension Center

Angela R. Jones has joined the staff of K-State Research and Extension - Sedgwick County, as the county Extension director.

Prior to joining K-State, Jones worked at Wichita State University for more than two decades, most recently serving for nine years as director of the Master in Business Administration program. She earned a bachelor's in psychology and a master's in communication from WSU and has begun coursework toward

her doctorate in education.

The Sedgwick County Extension Center is a joint partnership between Sedgwick County and K-State Research and Extension. It coordinates a number of programs including Master Gardeners, 4-H, Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas (SHICK), Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), Walk Kansas, WaterWise, and the Agriculture Proficiency Conference.

"Angela has the leader-

ship ability, people skills and program marketing experience to lead a strong K-State Research and Extension program in Sedgwick County," said Dr. Jim Lindquist, assistant director for KSRE Field Operations. "Her diverse background and educational experience made her the perfect choice to manage one of our largest districts and the services it offers to kids, families, farmers and growers. We are very pleased to have her join our team and look for-

ward to continued excellence in Extension programs offered to residents of Sedgwick County."

Jones becomes only the fourth person to lead the Extension Center since the 1960s when agents managed the activities. She replaces Beverly Dunning, who retired in March. Dunning, who worked as the director since 1996, was employed with Extension for more than 50 years.

"I have enormous shoes to fill. Bev was revered by

Extension programs across the country for the work she did in Sedgwick County," said Jones. "I am honored to follow in her footsteps and only hope I can match her significant contributions."

Jones began work on June 22.

County Extension directors provide primary leadership for the dissemination and implementation of research-based information and development of educational programs in areas of families and community sys-

tems that serve families, agriculture and natural resources, and 4-H youth development programs.

Extension directors are jointly employed in a partnership between K-State Research and Extension, headquartered on the Kansas State University campus in Manhattan, and the local Extension board. The role of K-State Research and Extension is to encourage the adoption of research-based information to improve the quality of life

Kansas State University equine expert warns traveling livestock owners of vesicular stomatitis

A Kansas State University veterinarian is cautioning residents of Kansas and surrounding states about a highly contagious viral disease that affects horses and livestock — and can sometimes affect humans.

At least 170 cases of vesicular stomatitis have

been confirmed in Colorado and Texas, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service. Outbreaks of this disease usually occur in late summer and early fall in more arid regions. Although two states are currently affected, Beth Davis,

professor and section head of equine medicine and surgery at Kansas State University's Veterinary Health Center, says all animal owners need to be cautious when traveling with their animals.

"It's an interesting disease because it does have pretty significant clinical signs," Davis said. "Most commonly, it causes painful oral blisters in horses that can affect the mouth, muzzle and tongue. Additional signs may include lesions on the udder and/or around the top of the hoof where it meets the hairline. Vesicular stomatitis also can affect mules, donkeys, cattle, bison, swine, sheep, goats, llamas and alpacas."

If livestock owners suspect they are dealing with vesicular stomatitis, they should contact their veterinarian immediately because it is a reportable disease, Davis said.

"If you're dealing with a suspected case, communicate with your local veterinarian," Davis said. "Your veterinarian will communi-

cate with state health officials and determine the best course of action."

Veterinarians and livestock owners work with state health officials to determine testing and quarantine protocols, which help identify animals infected and avoid their transport until viral shedding has ceased. When effective, the protocols will limit the spread of disease.

"It is quite contagious," Davis said. "The most common form of transmission is through insects, specifically biting flies. It also can be spread from one animal to another through direct contact and sharing of stable supplies."

Vesicular stomatitis is also potentially zoonotic, which means it can spread to humans, although it is rare. The elderly or immunocompromised are at higher risk of being infected. The virus causes mild flu-like symptoms in people and is generally resolved in about ten days.

No vaccine is currently commercially available for vesicular stomatitis. Although the virus is very contagious, it is rarely fatal, Davis said. Animals that contract the disease often fully recover with supportive care like rest, fluids and soft food. Complete recovery may take three to four weeks. During

that time, the animal is still contagious, which is why quarantine must be implemented on positive premises.

Davis also recommends that if you are traveling with horses or other livestock, check with the state's department of agriculture to ensure there are no travel restrictions.



Kaylee Toews, shown with judge Rebecca Porter, led the grand champion breeding ewe as well as the grand champion market lamb at the Clay County Fair.



Samantha McClure exhibited the reserve champion breeding ewe at the Clay County Fair. She is shown with judge Rebecca Porter.



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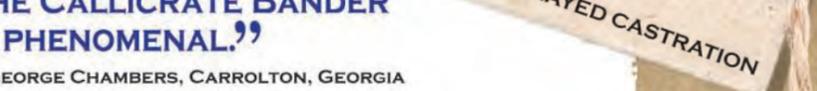
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Kansas native and *The Voice* contestant Kaleigh Glanton to perform at the Kansas State Fair

Kaleigh Glanton, a former Maize student who appeared on NBC's *The Voice*, is scheduled to perform a free concert at the Bretz and Young Injury Lawyers Arena at the Kansas State Fair. Glanton will take the stage Tuesday, September 9 at 6:00 p.m.

Glanton grew up watching her father play classical guitar and at the age of four she expressed interest in playing guitar. Later, at age 15, Kaleigh discovered her voice and her music shifted from complex melodic and polyphonic texture on guitar to using vocal tonality and rhythm to chronicle life.

"I describe my music as an indie folk sound but, honestly," she says, "I feel so free to explore different variations of that. I know I'm going to continue growing as a person and so will my art. I'm kind of afraid of this business of music but, I'm determined to make it as an artist, and I have been putting together a great team to help me".

During Kaleigh's appearance on the NBC's *The Voice*, where judges listen to performers with their backs turned and, if the judges like what they hear, their chair swivels around, all four judges - Usher, Blake Shelton, Adam Levine and Shakira turned for Kaleigh. The contestants then select a coach to mentor them on the show; Glanton chose Blake Shelton.

"We are pleased Kaleigh will be appearing at the Kansas State Fair," states Denny Stoecklein, Kansas State Fair general manager. "We enjoy featuring Kansas talent and assisting young artists advance their career."

Glanton's appearance will be free to fairgoers at the 2000-seat Bretz and Young Injury Lawyers Arena.

4-H'ers showcase project work at State Fair

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"The State Fair is a step up from local fairs, and it's always an honor to go on to this event," Bulk said. "The judges give comments or write notes on ways to improve for feedback."

This year, Bulk will be showing her "Spring Cleaning" king-sized quilt, a project that earned her grand champion at the Clay County Fair in July.

"I started this with some ladies from our quilt guild," Bulk said. "I learned so much from the ladies in the

group. They teach various skills like embroidery at a monthly program. I got to know them from my mom and grandma."

The design earned the name Spring Cleaning for using up smaller scraps and strips of fabric in 144 blocks with nine stars in a three-by-three pattern.

"It's been the biggest project I've ever sewn," Bulk said. "I took a sewing class my senior year of high school, so I worked on the quilt every day at school."

Olsen said she's a little nervous in anticipation of the fair, but more than ready for the show.

"I hope they do well," she said. "They are really good calves."

Haley Bulk, a Washington Headliner 4-H Club member from Clay County, has been to several Kansas State Fairs with poultry, rabbits and sewing projects.

New online challenge 'Prepare Kansas' can help individuals, families get disaster-ready

Sometimes, life in the heartland is not for the faint of heart. At least that's the way it seems when homes and communities experience tornadoes, flooding, drought and other disasters like Kansas can.

"For every disaster that makes the news, there are many more fires, storms and others that we don't hear about. They can be just as devastating to an individual, a family or a neighborhood and recovering from them all is difficult," said Elizabeth Kiss, family financial specialist with K-State Research and Extension.

Prepare Kansas is a new K-State Research and Extension online financial challenge designed to help individuals and families be better prepared ahead of disasters, which can make recovery easier. The program focuses on a few activities every week during September, including: Developing a Household Inventory; Insurance; Putting Together a Grab and Go Box; and Tips for After the Disaster.

September has been declared National Preparedness Month by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

A little work now can make recovering from a disaster less difficult, according to Elizabeth Brunscheen-Cartagena, K-State Research and Extension family and consumer science agent in Sedgwick County. "We've broken the program down to a few activities to do every week,

which makes it easier than if you're trying to do many activities from a long list."

Working on each activity gives families an opportunity to not only work together on becoming better prepared, but can spark discussions about preparedness in general and the best ways to handle future emergencies, Brunscheen-Cartagena said.

Register for the program at https://kstate.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_0U52oxUwRTaSGC9&Q_JFE=0



The reserve champion market lamb at the Clay County Fair was shown by Ryan McClure. He is pictured with judge Rebecca Porter.

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Low tunnel giveaway and registration open for Kansas Rural Center High Tunnel Workshops

The Kansas Rural Center's three upcoming "Tunnel to Table" workshops will offer experienced and beginning vegetable and fruit growers critical information on applying polytunnels — such as high tunnels and low tunnels — as strategic tools for Kansas farms. Workshop participants who register by Tuesday, August 26, 2014, may apply to receive free low tunnel infrastructure. The workshops will take place on Sunday afternoons, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., in Colby (August 31, 2014), Winfield (September 14, 2014), and Clay Center (October 5, 2014).

Polytunnels can be a valuable addition for Kansas farms. "We are a state with extreme weather, which creates unique challenges," explains Julie Mettenburg, KRC executive director. "Polytunnels greatly enhance climatic controls, providing significant crop protection for specialty crops. They can ease many production challenges and dramatically extend the production and income season for Kansas growers."

Strategically applied, polytunnels can help extend the growing season, increase crop protection from extreme weather and pests, and increase quality, yield, and income from vegetables, fruits, herbs and flowers. Tunnel to Table workshop participants will receive critical information and resources for assessing which polytunnel strategies may (or may not) contribute to the success of their cur-

rent or future specialty crop operations.

Tailored to both established farmers looking to diversify their operation and new growers looking for an entry point to market gardening, each event offers: dynamic presentations from and opportunity to dialogue with experienced Kansas high tunnel producers and farm service providers; an interactive tour of an established tunnel operation (each host farm is quite different — see descriptions below); grower-to-grower networking opportunities; and unique take-home educational materials produced specifically for these events. Each workshop will close with a hands-on demonstration of low tunnel construction and demonstration of how these low-cost and easy to construct structures can offer Kansas crops ample protection and significantly increase the harvest season.

Low tunnels offer an inexpensive entry point to polytunnel production, while providing many of the benefits offered by high tunnels. While plastic covered low tunnels extend the growing season into the winter months and allow for a jump start on spring production, other low tunnels options can benefit crops throughout the whole growing season. For example, fabric row cover can provide low tunnel crops with additional warmth and help exclude pests, and shade cloth covered low tunnels allow for season extension

of cool season crops into the hot summer. Used inside of a high tunnel, low tunnels double the cold protection and enable extensive overwintering of cold hardy crops.

Early-bird workshop registrants are eligible to apply to receive approximately 500 square feet of free low tunnel infrastructure, valued at around \$200. Nine workshop participants will go home with custom-bent metal hoops, a 10' x 100' roll of 6-mil greenhouse plastic, and row cover (insect barrier) to provide a physical barrier, protecting crops from insect damage. Anyone who registers for these workshops by August 26, 2014, is eligible for the giveaway — women, minorities, and limited-resource farmers are especially encouraged to apply.

A registration fee of \$15 includes workshop materials, plus beverages and locally sourced snacks. Registration information, low tunnel giveaway applications, and event details are available online <http://kansasruralcenter.org/low-tunnel-giveaway-and-registration-open-for-krc-high-tunnel-workshops/>, or by contacting Cole Cottin, Kansas Rural Center Program Coordinator, at ccottin@kansasruralcenter.org or 785-992-4572.

Topics of each workshop's presentations and round-table discussions featuring area growers will include: Kansas-specific polytunnel structure considerations, production and marketing strategies, economics

of tunnel production, and solutions to common region-specific challenges.

Each workshop also offers the opportunity to tour and learn from a unique farm with established polytunnel systems.

Farm tours include: Sharing the Bounty, LLC, a five-acre farm located eight miles southwest of Colby, will be open to Tunnel to Table participants the evening of August 3, 2014 - after workshop presentations and round-table discussions at The Prairie Museum. Starting in 2006, Duane and Jo Cheney began providing a variety of vegetables, herbs, and eggs to Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) customers. They have continued to increase production and now grow within seven high tunnels (six of which are homemade), allowing them to significantly extend the growing season and increase yields. In 2012, the Cheney's joined the High Plains Food Co-op, greatly expanding their customer base.

On September 14, 2014, Werner Creek Farm in Winfield, will show how a 14-acre farm and homestead has utilized an NRCS funded 30'x 96' high tunnel. The Werners are beginning

farmers who sell fresh fruits and vegetables, flowers, herbs, honey, and nuts at local farmers markets. Tomatoes are their main high tunnel crop, but they are experimenting with other crops as well.

The last workshop will take place at Jay's Jellies, Produce and More in Clay Center, on October 5, 2014. With over 6,700 square feet under plastic, this farm grows an immense variety of fresh produce, nearly year-round, on a total 1¼ acres. Jay has constructed all of his farm's six high tunnels - including one kit tunnel, five self-designed high tunnels (several are mobile), and a number of low tunnels for use within and outside of the high tunnels.

In addition to the Tunnel to Table workshop series, KRC will publish an accompanying Decision Making Tool and Resource Guide in late fall 2014. The Decision Making Tool - which integrates data from the survey and study of numerous regional farms - will assist existing and interested growers with deciding which polytunnel option(s) would be the best investment for them. The tool will compare the benefits and challenges of different types of tunnels, as well as cost, in-

come potential, dimensions, temperature increase, season extension potential, appropriate crops, and labor requirements. The Resource Guide will compile the extensive information that is available through numerous publications, websites, farmer networks, and Kansas farm service providers.

Kansas growers with experience using polytunnels of any type are encouraged to complete KRC's Tunnel to Table growers survey, still available at www.kansasruralcenter.org/T2Tsurvey.

The Kansas Rural Center is a non-profit organization that since 1979 has promoted the long-term health of the land and its people through community-based research, education and advocacy that advances economically viable, ecologically sound, and socially just food and farming systems. For more information about the Kansas Rural Center visit www.kansasruralcenter.org.

The most up-to-date information on Tunnel to Table efforts is available at: <http://kansasruralcenter.org/category/tunnel-to-table/> or by contacting Program Coordinator Cole Cottin at ccottin@kansasruralcenter.org or 785-992-4572.



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Kansas State crop specialist shares research-based information one e-Pub and Tweet at a time

Ignacio Ciampitti is a long way from the Buenos Aires neighborhood of his childhood, but remembers his grandmother's influence on his early decision to work outdoors with plants and solve production problems. The Kansas State University agronomist spent summers working in the fields with her in a small town outside the city. "Helping farmers to produce more food for our challenging world is my greatest passion," said Ciampitti, who is a crop production specialist with K-State Research and Extension.

That focus on working through production problems and reaching out to producers has resulted in two electronic publications (ePublications), both available for downloading at www.agronomy.k-state.edu/extension/crop-production/corn/.

"Diagnosing Corn Production Problems in Kansas" (publication S54 for tablets and smartphones) is an electronic version of a publication written by several K-State specialists, previously available only in printed booklet form.

"Abnormal Corn Ears iBook" is interactive and includes a test that growers can use to help in identifying problems with their crop. Currently, it is only available on iPads, not on iPhones, but Ciampitti believes the technology will change enough to allow that soon.

Both ePublications are also available as pdf documents.

"Now producers don't have to take along a book or other paper guide as they are scouting fields and trying to determine what pest or disease may be affecting their crop," Ciampitti said, noting that many producers have their smart phones or tablets with them much of the time. "If I'm a producer and I find a problem in my corn field, I can search on my tablet for corn topics. I can search for pictures, I can search for names, right there in the field." He is planning to produce more ePublications for soybean, sorghum, and canola, and Spanish versions, as well.

The Kansas Corn Commission supported the development of both ePublications.

"The commissioners share my view that the information was needed in an electronic, easy to share, and searchable format," Ciampitti said.

"The advantage of this is that we can develop such publications as this ePub that are portable, easy to be obtained, shared, handled, more searchable than a traditional publication and can change it as new information comes in," Ciampitti said. "The Extension audience is evolving and new generations demand more effective and up-to-the-minute information available via iBook, ePub, Twitter, Facebook, and website related-sources."

The agronomist also uses Facebook (Ignacio Ciampitti/KSUCROPS) and Twitter (Ignacio A Ciampitti @KSUCROPS) to communicate crop information, but be-

lieves that because the audience on Facebook is limited to a selected group of people ("friends"), Twitter is more dynamic and interactive. Less than a year after he started tweeting, he has more than 1,000 followers.

"You can go to a meeting and speak to ten people, and after the meeting you can also tweet the presentation and reach 500 people," he said, noting that while there is still a place for traditional communications, social media is another way to convey messages. "You can view everything from plant problems to announcements and it can be interactive."

He recently summarized his experiences on the use of Social Media and how this tool is revolutionizing the agricultural communication outlets in a very broad and high impact magazine from the American Society of Agronomy, Soil Science and Crop Science Society of America (ASA, SSSA, CSSA), CSA News. This paper can be found at the following link: <http://twl.sh/1k0wSjY>.

Ciampitti is careful about what he tweets, however, and tries to ensure that people learn something with every message he sends out. Generally he sends no more than two a day and those typically go

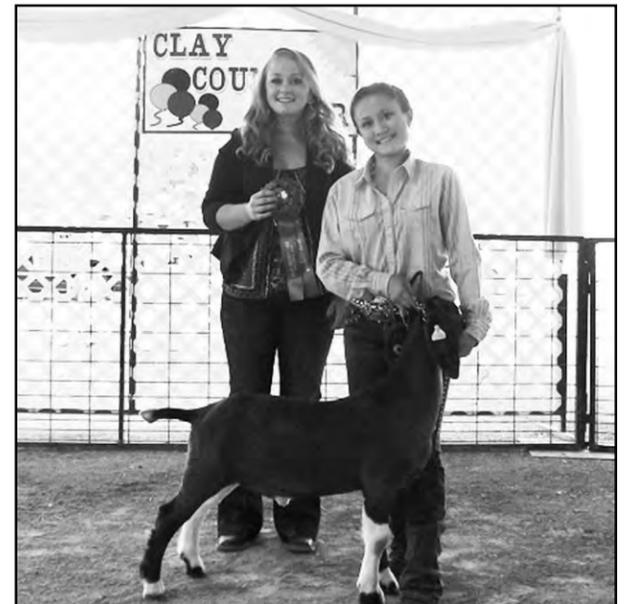
out around noon and later in the evening.

"People often check Facebook and Twitter before they go to bed," he said.

Ciampitti, who recently gave a presentation on using social media at a precision agriculture conference, InfoAg 2014 in St. Louis (with more than 1400 registrants), summarized some of his favorite mobile

apps for agriculture at https://webapp.agron.ksu.edu/ agr_social/eu_article.throck?article_id=176.

An article summarizing useful apps for agriculture by Ciampitti was published recently in the K-State Agronomy eUpdate newsletter at https://webapp.agron.ksu.edu/ agr_social/eu_article.throck?article_id=176.



JaelAnn Hoover exhibited the grand and reserve champion meat goat as well as the grand champion breeding meat goat doe at the Clay County Fair.



Sabrina Johnson led the reserve champion dairy goat at the Clay County Fair.



Judge Rebecca Porter selected the entry shown by Sabrina Johnson as the reserve champion breeding meat goat doe at the Clay County Fair.



Showing the grand champion dairy goat at the Clay County Fair was JaelAnn Hoover, shown above with judge Rebecca Porter.

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Keep watch for insects in your soybeans

By Josh Coltrain,
Wildcat Extension District

The old saying goes "All it takes to be a good soybean farmer is some rain in August." I'm not sure who said these words, but there is some truth to it. Soybeans are very resilient plants. However, as tough as they are, some insects can cause enough damage to the soybean that require some attention.

The first, and maybe most worrisome, insect pest in soybean is the corn earworm (*Helicoverpa zea*), which when it attacks soybean plants is called the podworm. These voracious eaters are also called tomato fruitworm and cotton bollworm, and consume a wide variety of agronomic and horticultural crops. Technically, the "worm" is actually a caterpillar as the adult corn earworm is a moth.

Scouting for this pest should begin when pods are being set. In fact, with recent calls about earworm moving to sorghum, the time to start scouting is already here. The larvae attack the developing seed within the pod and can cause significant yield loss. The recommended treatment level is when there is one earworm per foot of row. However, many would argue that this level is too low and spraying could be justified at a much lower level. A wide variety of insecticides are effective against earworm but, as always, read and follow label instructions when applying.

The next culprit in the soybean insect playbook is the bean leaf beetle (*Cerotoma trifurcate*). Bean leaf beetles closely resemble the size and shape of a ladybug, but their coloring differs. The bean leaf beetle has spots (six) near its mid-

line with a black band around the border of its back. The beetles chew oval holes in the leaf, which truly sounds worse than it is. Early in the season, soybeans can tolerate up to 25 percent defoliation without harming potential yield. Later in the season, a chemical treatment may be warranted if pod-feeding is occurring, however. The treatment threshold is incredibly high at 50 or more beetles per foot of row. Once again, a wide variety of insecticides are effective on bean leaf beetle.

Webworms (*Achyra rantalis*) are also a problematic pest for soybeans in our area and have been seen this year. Once again, it is actually a caterpillar

which becomes an adult moth. The caterpillar itself is slender and green with triangular spots along its side. This insect skeletonizes the leaf in a protected webbed pocket. This contributes to the difficulty in controlling the pest. Although treatment levels are not set in stone, but from 25 to 50 percent defoliation would require treatment. A wide variety of insecticides work on webworm as well.

Rarely has an insect been more accurately named than the green stinkbug (*Acrosternum hilare*). The damage from this insect is interesting in that from the outside of the pod, very little can be seen. In fact, only a tiny black or brown spot appears on the

pod itself. However, these pests pierce the pod targeting the developing seed and cause shrunken and shriveled seeds. The treatment level for green stinkbugs is when ten bugs per 30 feet of row are found. Often, spot treatments may be effective at eliminating the pest and quite a few products eliminate stinkbug.

Finally, there have been a multitude of reports of blister beetle in our area this year. I witnessed a massive amount of striped blister beetles (*Epicauta vittata*) in a corn field a few weeks back. There were hundreds (at least) in the field causing some localized damage. These beetles feed on the foliage, but rarely require more than

spot treatment because of their nature. Early in plant development, up to 35 percent defoliation can be tolerated by the plant. However, when the plant is flowering and pods are forming, yield loss can occur at 20 percent defoliation. Once again, a wide variety of insecticides work on blister beetles.

Keep an eye on your fields. Even though soybeans are tough, some insect pests can impact yield. If you have questions or would like more information, please call me at the office (620) 724-8233, or e-mail me at jcoltrain@ksu.edu, or visit the Wildcat Extension District website at www.wildcatdistrict.ksu.edu.



Winning sheep showmanship honors at the Clay County Fair were, from left: Levi Musselman, junior grand champion; Ryan McClure, intermediate grand champion; Katelyn Bohnenblust, senior grand champion; Kaylee Toews, senior reserve champion; Emma Smith, intermediate reserve champion and Lane Musselman, junior reserve champion.



The top meat goat showmen at the Clay County Fair were, from left: Sabrina Johnson, intermediate grand champion; JaelAnn Hoover, senior grand champion and Annaleah Johnson, intermediate reserve champion.



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