

K-STATE

Research and Extension

Sedgwick County

April 2025 *eNews*

"Knowledge for Life"

[Click here for all of our Spring 2025 events!](#)

Horticulture



#KSTATEGARDENHOUR

K-STATE GARDEN HOUR

Methods to Increasing Vegetable Yield

Wednesday, April 2nd 12:00PM -1:00PM CST

Maximize your garden's productivity! Join Abbey Draut, Sedgwick County Food Crops Horticulture Agent, as she shares proven methods for increasing vegetable yields. Learn how to optimize soil health, select high-performing varieties, and implement effective care techniques to boost your harvest. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced gardener, these practical tips will help you grow more food in your garden this season.



Register Here!



Please register for this free Zoom Webinar at:
ksre-learn.com/KStateGardenHour



There are many ways that you can maximize your vegetable garden's productivity, including optimizing soil health, selecting high-performing varieties, and implementing best practices for care. Join the next K-State Garden Hour webinar on Wednesday, April 2, 2025 to learn more about "Methods to Increasing Vegetable Yield". Abbey Draut, Sedgwick County Food Crops Horticulture Agent, will share practical tips to help you grow more food in your garden this season. This free webinar will be presented live from Noon to 1pm, and recorded and available online. Register for upcoming webinars or find past recordings online at:

www.ksre-learn.com/KStateGardenHour

Tools & Treasures Sale



A Fundraiser to Support the Sedgwick County
Extension Master Gardener Program



Shop great deals and support the Master Gardener's
community outreach programs at the same time.

Admission is FREE. Cash, check, or credit card accepted.



Thursday April 3rd: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday April 4th: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday April 5th: 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Inside The Sedgwick County Extension Education Center
7001 W. 21st Street N, Wichita, KS 67205



There is sure to be something for everyone, including:

Stained-glass
Stepping Stones
Plant Containers
Rain Barrels
Trellises

Wheelbarrows
Lawn Mowers
Compost Bins
Garden Tools
Bird Feeders

Birdhouses
Hand Tools
Pond Supplies
Watering cans
And MORE!

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer. K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Language access requests and reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means for communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, and American Sign Language), may be requested by contacting the event contact Matthew McKernan four weeks prior to the start of the event (March 6, 2025) at (316)-660-0140 or mckernan@ksu.edu. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request. Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service.

2025 Tools & Treasures Sale Starts This Week!

Shop new and gently used gardening tools, supplies, garden art, landscape décor, and more, at the 7th annual Tools & Treasures Sale.

This 3-day event, will be Thursday, April 3rd to Saturday, April 5th, and will be held at the Sedgwick County Extension Education Center (inside 4-H Hall), located at 7001 W. 21st Street N. in Wichita. The sale will feature an extensive assortment of new and gently used gardening related items for sale, and all proceeds go to support the Sedgwick County Extension Master Gardener Volunteer program's community outreach programs. Last year's fundraiser supported over 28,500 hours of volunteer time, reaching 1 in 5 Sedgwick County residents with educational outreach. Support a great cause while discovering amazing finds to add to your garden! [Visit our website to learn more and see the full sale schedule.](#)

Act Now to Prevent Summer Weeds



Weed prevention is an important step in helping your lawn and garden be more drought resistant. Weeds compete with desirable plants for water and nutrients. This problem worsens in periods of drought when these resources are limited. Now is the time to act to apply pre-emergent products in

order to prevent summer weeds before they become an issue.

Pre-emergents must be applied before summer weeds begin to grow, so application timing is critical. **Look for 1" soil temperatures to average 55°F, or look for the purple flowers of the Eastern Redbud tree to tell you when to apply weed control pre-emergent.** Once the redbud trees begin to bloom, it's best to apply a pre-emergent within the next two weeks.

Crabgrass, grassy sandbur, goosegrass, and spurge are all weeds we commonly see in lawns & flowerbeds, all of which can be controlled this month with a pre-emergent product. While there are many pre-emergent products available, two products are available for summer-long weed prevention:

- o **Dimension** (*active ingredient = dithiopyr*)
- o **Barricade** (*active ingredient = prodiamine*)

Other products available will typically need repeat applications throughout the summer, so be sure to read and follow the label instructions. Most products are not safe to use when planting seeds. If you plan to plant seeds in your lawn or garden this spring or summer, most pre-emergent products will kill desirable seeds as well as weed seeds and should not be used in these areas. Always read and follow the label instructions before applying any of these products.

For more information, you can visit any of the articles below:

- [Crabgrass](#)
- [Grassy Sandbur](#)
- [Wichita Area Soil Temperatures](#)
- [Pre-Emergent Products & Spring Grass Seeding](#)
- For weekly reminders of timely gardening activities, visit our [K-State Horticulture Newsletter](#) with new gardening suggestions each week!

Local Food

LEARN MORE 



Growing Growers

FARM APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM WITH TWO TRACK OPTIONS

Farm Apprenticeship

Cost: \$500

Apprentice receives:

- Online course access (12 mo.)
- Books
- Participation in workshops & farm tours

Apprentice agrees to:

- Work 20-40 hours per week on production farm (hours & pay agreed upon with host farm)
- Complete 8-10 hours of 1-on-1 training with host farmer
- Complete pre and post-skills evaluation
- Complete program evaluation at end of season

Explore Farming

Cost: \$250

Explorer receives:

- Online course access (12 mo.)
- Books
- Participation in workshops & farm tours

Explorer agrees to:

- Work 4-8 hours per week on non-profit farm (hours + pay agreed upon with host farm)

**Scholarships available!
Apply by March 1st**



KANSAS RURAL CENTER



Cooperative Extension



JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



KCFARM SCHOOL AT GIBBS ROAD

Growing Growers is a decentralized program that offers apprentices practical experience through hands-on work at their host farm, year-long access to a comprehensive online course, and participation in a series of in-person workshops and farm tours during the growing season.

This program is State-wide! If you are interested in becoming an apprentice on a farm or host-farm, please reach out to us at growers@ksu.edu or visit our website at www.growinggrowers.org.

ICT FOOD CIRCLE

CONNECT -- EDUCATE -- FACILITATE

K-STATE Research and Extension

Sedgwick County

Looking for a one stop shop for local foods in Sedgwick County? Visit the K-State Research and Extension **ICT Food Circle** *Food Directory* for up-to-date listings of local producers selling farm fresh products in Sedgwick County. Also check out the *Events Calendar* for information on local Farmers Markets!

www.ictfoodcircle.org

Agriculture

**Time to Prepare for
Aquatic Plant Control in Ponds**

The most common pond problem, we receive questions on, is “pond moss.” The light green mats people are referring to are actually filamentous algae, and not a moss. These thick mats, as well as other pond weeds, can be unattractive and inhibit the use of our ponds when their growth is excessive. To increase your chances of controlling filamentous algae, and other pond weeds, now is the time to start preparing. Controlling aquatic growth can be difficult. A combination of limiting nutrients entering the water, aquatic herbicides/algaecides, pond dyes, and aeration should be utilized to inhibit their growth. Below are resources to help in your efforts this year.

[Managing “Pond Moss” and Aquatic Weeds](#)

[AquaPlant ID](#)

[Aquatic Plants and Their Control](#)



Family Life

Spring Into Meaningful

Screen-Free Moments

As spring blossoms with fresh opportunities, it's the perfect season to step away from screens and embrace quality time with loved ones. In today's fast-paced, technology-driven world, getting lost in digital distractions is easy.



However, creating intentional screen-free moments can strengthen

relationships, improve mental well-being, and create lasting memories. Families can cultivate deeper connections and rediscover the joy of unplugged living by making small, mindful changes.

Screen-Free Time Matters! In an era where screens dominate work, education, and entertainment, excessive screen time can impact physical and emotional health. Studies show that prolonged screen exposure can lead to sleep disturbances, increased anxiety, and diminished attention spans, particularly among children. Reducing screen time fosters better communication, enhances creativity, and encourages meaningful interactions. Families prioritizing screen-free activities often experience stronger bonds, improved mental clarity, and a greater sense of presence in their daily lives.

Here are some ideas for meaningful screen-free activities:

[Read More English](#)

[Read More Spanish](#)

Community Vitality

First FRIDAY e-CALL



Uniquely Do-Able Ideas for Your Small Town

Deb Brown, Co-Founder

SaveYour.Town

Join Us April 4, 2025

9:30- 10:30 am CT

Register Today

<https://ksre-learn.com/ecall>

K-STATE
Research and Extension

First Friday E-Call: Uniquely Do-Able Ideas for Your Small Town

Deb Brown, Co-Founder, SaveYour.Town

April 4, 2025, 9:30 - 10:30 am

[Register Here](https://ksre-learn.com/ecall)



Grant Writing Basics

Online Workshop

Join Us April 22, 24 2025

1:30-4:30 pm CT

Cost: \$60

Register Today

<https://ksre-learn.com/grant-writing-basics>

K-STATE
Research and Extension

Grant Writing Basics

April 22, 24 1:30 - 4:30 pm

[Register Here](https://ksre-learn.com/grant-writing-basics)

Remote Work Wednesdays

Current Trends in Remote Work and
Artificial Intelligence



Dr. Paul Hill
Utah State University

Join Us April 9, 2025

Noon - 1:00pm

Register Today

<https://ksre-learn.com/remote-work>

K-STATE
Research and Extension



Remote Work Wednesdays

Current Trends in Remote Work and Artificial Intelligence,
Dr Paul Hill, Utah State University
April 9, 2025, Noon - 1:00 pm

[Register Here](https://ksre-learn.com/remote-work)

Health and Nutrition

**Get Moving With Fun Ideas
for Move More Month!**

Move More Month
Move More Month
Move More Month
Move More Month
Move More Month



Looking for creative ways to stay active this month? Whether you're indoors or out, here are some fun and easy ways to keep moving:

- ♀ **Walk It Out**

Lace up your sneakers and explore! Take a walk around your neighborhood or a local park.

- **Dance Party at Home**

Turn up your favorite playlist and let loose! No need to worry about perfect moves—just have fun.

- **Play with Pets**

Your furry friends make great workout partners. Play fetch, go for a jog, or engage in a fun game of chase. No pets at home? Offer to walk a neighbor's dog or visit a local shelter.

- **Take a Stretch Break**

Feeling stiff? Stretch it out! Set a reminder to take a quick stretch break every hour. Simple moves like reaching for the ceiling or doing shoulder rolls can boost your energy and keep your body feeling good.

Stay motivated and make movement part of your routine this month.

EFNEP-SnapEd

Free Nutrition Classes



Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program **EFNEP** offers **FREE** nutrition education classes that help improve the whole family's health through good nutrition and food budgeting tips. EFNEP offers classes in English and Spanish for families with young children, pregnant persons, and youth grades 6-12. If you are eligible for or receiving SNAP, TANF, WIC, free/reduced lunches, or Head Start these classes are for you.

SNAP-Ed also offers FREE nutrition education classes for youth grades 3-12, adults, families, and seniors. If you are eligible for or receiving SNAP, TANF, WIC, or free/reduced lunches – we are here to serve you! EFNEP and SNAP-Ed also partner with organizations serving low-resource individuals including food pantries, health clinics, job-readiness sites, schools with more than 50% of students receiving free or reduced lunches, and more. Is your site interested in partnering with us? Email lauriec@ksu.edu or call 316-660-0119 to learn more.

4-H and Youth Development

Exciting Embryology Program Coming Soon

to KSRE Sedgwick County 4-H



Sedgwick County 4-H is thrilled to announce the upcoming launch of its **Embryology Program**, an engaging and educational opportunity designed to bring the wonders of hatching eggs into classrooms across the region. This hands-on learning

experience will be available to schools serving grades K-3, 3-5, 6-8, and high school students.

Through this program, students will have the opportunity to witness the **miracle of life** as they observe eggs developing and hatching.

Educators will be provided with all the necessary materials, including an **incubator, fertilized eggs, and a comprehensive curriculum** designed to align with science standards and promote critical thinking, responsibility, and STEM engagement.

What the Program Provides

Sedgwick County 4-H will supply participating schools with:

- A **classroom incubator**
- **Fertilized eggs ready for hatching**
- A **detailed curriculum** with lesson plans tailored to different grade levels
- **Instructional classes to guide students and teachers through the hatching process**

Schools interested in bringing the Embryology Program to their classrooms are encouraged to reach out for more details. **Contact** LLholt@ksu.edu or call **316-660-0111** to learn more about registration, program availability, and scheduling options.

K-State News

Celebrating the First Year of K-State 105 Success

K-State 105 is building economic growth



for all 105 Kansas counties.

In just one year, the K-State 105 ecosystem has created or retained more than 408 jobs, helped establish or expand more than 415 businesses and supported more than 546 Kansas employees in acquiring new skills or training.

These measurable outcomes reflect the power of collaboration, innovation and a shared vision for Kansas' future.

[**View the fiscal year 2024 report and take a closer look at the first year of K-State 105.**](#)

Get Involved!



K-State Research and Extension — Sedgwick County exists to serve the people of south central Kansas. Our mission thrives because of community support. We offer many opportunities for volunteers to offer their time and skills, from gardening to youth development to programming support.

[**Learn more about ways to support our programming and the needs of the community.**](#)

Looking for an event space?



Consider having your next event at the Extension Education Center!

[**Read more**](#)



ExtensionEducationFoundation.org

Sedgwick County

Please help support Extension community services in Sedgwick County through the Extension Education Foundation, Inc.

When you shop Dillons Food Stores, Dillons will make a donation to the Extension Education Foundation, Inc.

1. Go to Dillons.com/communityrewards
2. Log into your Dillons account
3. Search for NPO number **CY612**
4. Click enroll



Mail-in donation form

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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K-State Research and Extension - Sedgwick County

This monthly e-newsletter is intended to inform citizens of events, activities and research-based information from K-State Research and Extension Center - Sedgwick County

7001 W. 21st St. N., Wichita, Kansas 67205

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer. K-State Research and Extension 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, please contact:
Dr. Brantley, PhD, Extension Director, Sedgwick County 316-660-0105

K State Research and Extension is a short name for the Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service, a program

designed to generate and distribute useful knowledge for the well being of Kansans. Supported by county, state, federal and private funds, the program has county extension offices, experiment fields, area extension offices and regional research centers statewide. Its headquarters is on the K State campus in Manhattan. For more information, visit www.ksre.ksu.edu



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working for you*

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