

# K-STATE

## Research and Extension

### Sedgwick County

August 2025 *eNews*

*"Knowledge for Life"*

[Click here for all of our Summer/Fall 2025 events!](#)

## **Brantley Accepts South Region Extension Director Role**



Dr. Jennifer Brantley will begin her new duties as south region director at the beginning of August. She currently serves as the local unit extension director for Sedgwick County, where she has been since January 2019.

In 2024, Brantley and her team were recognized as K-State Extension's Outstanding Local Unit. This was a significant accomplishment for the largest-staffed local unit in the state.

Brantley has additional valuable leadership experience with the Envision Foundation as its public education and outreach manager, as the assistant director of the Standardized Patient Center at KU School of Medicine–Wichita, and as the assistant director of employer relations for Kansas State University's Career and Employment Services. Prior to that, she was a middle school teacher and worked as a biomedical

technician.

Brantley has developed multiple organizational partnerships over the years, resulting in recognition awards like the 2024 Outstanding Local Unit award for Sedgwick County and being a Wichita Business Journal Women in Business Awardee and Health Care Hero Awardee for community outreach. Additionally, she has been recognized through the Wichita Health Alliance for her contributions. Most recently, she will be recognized as an honoree of the Women Who Lead in Technology, Innovation, and Education in the July 25, 2025 edition of the Wichita Business Journal.

We are excited for Brantley to join the field operations team, where she will work with agents, specialists and administration. Her diverse set of skills and experiences will benefit the overall K-State Extension system. Her last day at Sedgwick County Extension will be today, August 1. The search for her replacement begins immediately.



If you or someone you know has leadership, teamwork, and communication skills and also has supervisory, budgeting, and outreach experience, please review our Sedgwick County Extension Director job posting. It will be live August 6 and will close September 3. The interviews will be on Thursday, September 18. Visit [ksu.edu/careers](https://ksu.edu/careers) to see the details.

## **Update on Sedgwick County Extension Budget and Operations Plan**

By Jennifer Brantley, PhD, Sedgwick County Director

Extension is committed to serving the entire county by delivering unbiased, research-based education and services. With a team of nine agents and twelve

hourly employees, the Sedgwick County team works to meet the diverse needs of our residents within the largest city, in one of the most populated counties in Kansas with over 500,000 people. To make it work, there are a variety of

ways that we depend on funding to assist in providing services and supporting partnerships. We depend on taxpayer money, allocations from K-State, grants, sponsorships, and fundraisers. Our programming areas depend largely on grants, sponsorships, fundraisers, and donations to assist with costs and to supplement continuing education and professional development for staff. As for our general operational budget (supplies/equipment, insurance, memberships, travel, salaries, benefits, etc.), although we receive funding from K-State to cover a portion of our agent salaries (they also provide benefits and educational resources), we depend on the Sedgwick County government to cover the majority of our expenses.

[Read More](#)



**Budget  
Update**

# 4-H and Youth Development

## 4-H Opportunities for Sedgwick County Youth

If you're a young person in Sedgwick County looking to explore new skills, showcase your talents, and have fun, 4-H offers a wide range of opportunities throughout the year, including some of the most exciting events in the region: the Sedgwick County Fair and the Kansas State





Fair!

[Read More](#)

## 4-H School Enrichment is Kicking Off For 2025-2026 School Year



As the school year kicks off, the 4-H Youth Development team is excited to bring hands-on, high-energy learning back into Sedgwick County classrooms! Our School Enrichment programs are designed to spark curiosity and excitement in young learners through engaging, interactive lessons.

This year, we're offering a variety of fun and educational topics, including:

- Screenless Coding – Build problem-solving skills with our robots!
- Mindfulness – Help students develop focus and emotional wellness.
- Seasonal Favorites – Like *Embryology*, Butterfly Life Cycle and Wheat Science, perfect for enhancing classroom curriculum.

Programs are free or low cost and include all supplies, making it easy for teachers to say "yes!" to 4-H.

Want to see what's available? Explore all our offerings at:

[www.tinyurl.com/school-enrichment](http://www.tinyurl.com/school-enrichment)

We love partnering with educators and volunteers to inspire youth across Sedgwick County. If you're interested in sharing your time and talents as a School Enrichment volunteer educator, we'd love to hear from you!

Fill out our quick interest form here:

[https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_afJnmscKgvKBaya](https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_afJnmscKgvKBaya)

Let's make this school year unforgettable together!

# Horticulture

## Trending Garden Pests



With the heat and humidity of summer in full force, several common problems are trending topics in our Garden Hotline.

## Trending Topics

- **Cedar Hawthorn Rust on Ornamental Pear Trees:** This disease leaves orange, yellow, and red spots on pear tree leaves. While primarily only causing aesthetic damage, this disease can be quite noticeable. [Visit our website for more information on Pear Rust.](#)
- **Fall Webworms:** Large masses of webbing have been visible in trees around South Central Kansas. This has been the first generation of Fall Webworms, with a second generation of caterpillars soon to follow. [Visit our website for more information on Fall Webworm.](#)
- **Brown Patch In Tall Fescue:** High humidity and warm temps have created the perfect environment for this fungus to thrive in Tall Fescue lawns. Look for tan, water-soaked lesions on turf leaf blades, surrounded by a darker, reddish-brown border. [Visit our website for more information on how to combat Brown Patch.](#)
- **Crabgrass:** Additional summer rainfall has encouraged crabgrass growth this summer. This annual weed thrives in the summer heat, and is often noticeable in lawns and gardens. [Visit our website for more information on how to control crabgrass.](#)

If you have any questions about these, or any gardening topics, feel free to contact our free Garden Hotline. You can call us at (316)-660-0190, send an email to [sgemghotline@gmail.com](mailto:sgemghotline@gmail.com), or stop by in person with a plant sample. Our Garden Hotline is staffed Monday-Friday, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm and 1:00-4:00 pm. For more information, and suggestions on diagnostic photos to take, visit:

[www.sedgwick.ksu.edu/garden](http://www.sedgwick.ksu.edu/garden)





# K-STATE GARDEN HOUR

## **Innovations in Horticulture Research at Kansas State University**

Wednesday, August 6th 12:00PM -1:00PM CST

As a land-grant university, Kansas State University's core missions are Teaching, Research, and Extension. This session will share recent and emerging horticultural research across the state and beyond. Join Dr. Cheryl Boyer, Professor and Extension Specialist, as she highlights research projects addressing horticultural specialty crops such as ornamentals, fruits and vegetables, and turfgrass.



Register Here!



Please register for this free Zoom Webinar at:  
[ksre-learn.com/KStateGardenHour](https://ksre-learn.com/KStateGardenHour)



## **August K-State Garden Hour Webinar**

Universities across the country have active research projects that look to tackle many of our most common lawn and garden issues. Learn what K-State and other Universities around the country are studying, and the lessons they are learning with their research. Join the next K-State Garden Hour webinar on Wednesday, August 6, 2025 to learn more about "Innovations in Horticulture Research at Kansas State University". Join Dr. Cheryl Boyer as she highlights research projects addressing horticultural crops, including lawns, gardens, fruits, and vegetables. 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](https://www.ksre-learn.com/KStateGardenHour)

# Aging and Medicare



## Medicare Open Enrollment

Oct. 15 - Dec. 7

To schedule your appointment,

**call us at 316.660.0126**

**Beginning August 1st, 2025**



This Project was supported in part by grant numbers 2401KSMISH and 90SAPG0161 from the US Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects with government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official ACL policy.

Counseling is provided by the  
Senior Health Insurance for Kansas  
program (SHICK)

## Medicare Open Enrollment

Medicare's Open Enrollment runs October 15–December 7, but appointment scheduling begins August 1 for counseling sessions at Sedgwick County Extension, WSU Metroplex, Oaklawn Wellness Hub, and Cheney Public Library.

Our certified SHICK counselors provide free, unbiased help to review Medicare Part D, Advantage Plans, and other coverage options — helping you find cost-effective coverage that fits your needs for 2026. Appointments fill quickly, so call early starting August 1 at 316-660-0126 to request your session.



Please note: our August 18 Medicare Options Class is full, and we will not offer any additional classes in September, October, or November due to the Open Enrollment counseling workload. The next Medicare Options Class will be held on December 10.

If you have not had your Medicare plan reviewed recently, this is a great opportunity. Call 316-660-0126 or visit

<https://www.sedgwick.k-state.edu/aging-medicare/senior-health-insurance/> for details.

## Local Food

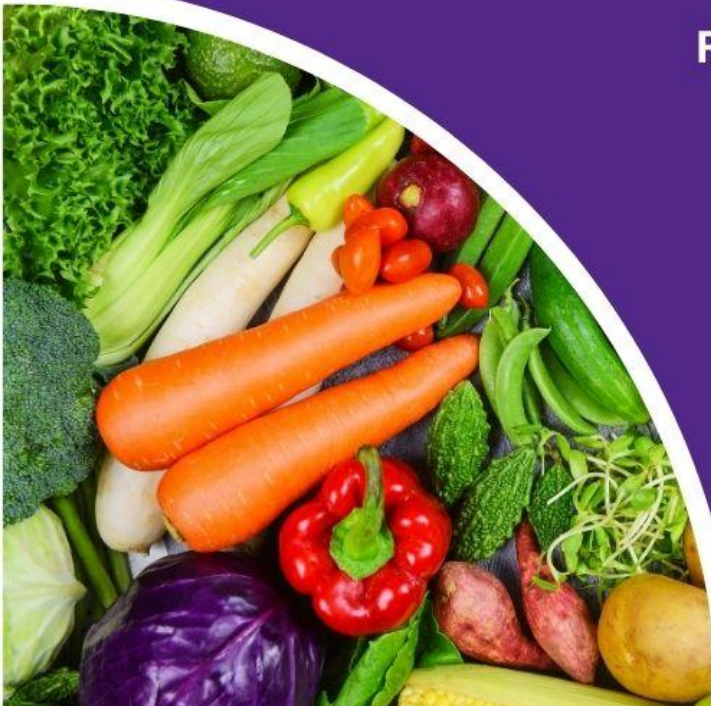
# FSMA PRODUCE SAFETY GROWER TRAINING

FOR PRODUCE GROWERS

Wednesday,  
August 20th

8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Sedgwick County  
Extension Education Center  
7001 W 21<sup>st</sup> North  
Wichita, KS 67205



**FSMA Produce Safety Grower Training  
August 20 in Wichita**



Kansas State Extension and Kansas Farmers Union are offering an in-person FSMA Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Training on **Wednesday, August 20, 2025**, in **Wichita, Kansas**, from **8:30 AM to 5:00 PM CT**.

This training fulfills the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule requirement for covered farms. To receive a certificate of training, participants must attend the full session and complete a course evaluation.

The cost is **\$50 for Kansas growers** and **\$130 for out-of-state participants**, which covers the materials for the course. Lunch will not be provided, so participants are encouraged to make their own arrangements during the one-hour lunch break.

**Pre-registration through Eventbrite is required.**

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fsma-produce-safety-grower-training-tickets-1363580739699?aff=oddtcreator>

At least 10 participants must be registered by **August 13** for the class to be held. Refunds are not available within one week of the training. For more information about the FSMA Produce Safety Rule, visit [ksre.k-state.edu/foodsafety/produce/fsma](https://ksre.k-state.edu/foodsafety/produce/fsma), or contact [producesafety@ksu.edu](mailto:producesafety@ksu.edu) with questions.

## Extend Your Harvest With a Fall Vegetable Garden



### What to Grow

Focus on cool-season crops like leafy greens (lettuce, spinach, kale), root vegetables (carrots, radishes, turnips), and brassicas (broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage). Some less common options—like bok choy, fennel, and chicories—also thrive in fall's milder weather.

### When to Plant

Start planting in late July through mid-September. Transplants of long-season crops like broccoli and cabbage should go in earlier, while quick-maturing crops like lettuce and radishes can be planted later and in succession for extended harvests.

### **Tips for Success**

- Use shade cloth and mulch to help seeds and seedlings during hot August days.
- Start seeds indoors and transplant when weather cools.
- Keep soil evenly moist until plants are established.
- Watch for early frosts—many fall crops tolerate cold, but row covers can offer extra protection.

### **Overwintering Crops**

Certain vegetables like spinach, kale, and carrots can be overwintered using mulch and row covers. Be sure they're well established by mid-November for best results.

With the right planning, fall gardening can provide fresh, flavorful produce into early winter—and even give you a head start next spring. For more information, view our publication on Fall Gardening [https://www.sedgwick.k-state.edu/gardening-lawn-care/documents/Fall\\_Vegetable\\_Gardening1.pdf](https://www.sedgwick.k-state.edu/gardening-lawn-care/documents/Fall_Vegetable_Gardening1.pdf).

# **Health and Nutrition**

## **Sip Smart: Simple Tips to Stay Hydrated This Summer**

Did you know that dehydration can affect your energy, mood and focus?

As summer heats up, staying hydrated is more important than ever. Your body loses more fluids through sweat, especially during outdoor activities, and it's easy to forget to drink enough water when



you're busy.

Simple habits can help: add lemon or cucumber to your water for a fun twist, sip water before you feel thirsty, and keep a reusable water bottle nearby to make hydration easier. Try drinking a glass of water with each meal to stay consistent. Even small changes make a big difference. Staying hydrated helps you feel your best all summer long!



Tips for  
Summer  
Hydration

# Agriculture

# Wheat Pre-Plant Meeting

**MONDAY, AUGUST 11  
CLEARWATER HIGH  
SCHOOL**

1201 Ross Ave, Clearwater, KS

Dinner starts at 6 pm. Program to follow. Meal provided by American AgCredit.



**WHEAT PRE-PLANT**



#### **SPEAKERS:**

**Allan Fritz**  
K-State Wheat Breeder



**Kelsey Andersen Onofre**  
K-State Wheat Disease Specialist

For more details, contact us:

**316-660-0144  
620-326-7477**



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 Jeff Seiler, 316-660-0153, or Randy Hein, 620-326-7477. Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Service. K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Wheat drilling is around the corner! Join us for our Wheat Pre-Plant Meeting on August 11<sup>th</sup>! For help in variety selection, check out the [\*\*Interactive Wheat Plot\*\*](#) and the [\*\*2025 Wheat Plot Results!\*\*](#)





# **K-STATE**

Research and Extension

## **South-Central Kansas Replicated Wheat Variety Tests 2025**

Andale, Clearwater, Haysville, Buhler, Newton, Belle Plaine, Caldwell

**Special thanks to our Wheat Plot Sponsors:**



American  
AgCredit



# **Get Involved!**

K-State Research and Extension — Sedgwick County exists to serve the people of south



## Volunteer Opportunities

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](#)





## 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](https://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**

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

### **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

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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](http://www.ksre.ksu.edu)



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