TWIN CREEKS SPOTLIGHT



MAY & JUNE 2021



Dirty Hands, Healthy Kids... Getting kids in the garden is the goal for 2021!

It's that time of year! ... Time to get those gardens growing! And, this year we are hoping to encourage our local youth to get outside, get their hands dirty and join us in the garden. Continue reading as I share benefits to youth being involved in gardening and to hear more about a youth gardening series that we are offering across the counties of the Twin Creeks Extension District.

There are so many benefits associated with getting those little hands in the soil. I recently read an article that shared people who garden are less likely to suffer from depression and anxiety. The article eluded to the fact that whether it be the sunshine or simply watching your efforts grow before your eyes, gardening is good for the soul and our mental health. Here are a few more reasons we believe in the power of gardening for our kiddos!

Gardening helps us learn where our food comes from.

When you buy a bell pepper from the grocery store, it wasn't grown there! Gardening helps us see the connection between the growth process of a pepper plant, how it started from a seed, requires attention and the right time to harvest it. It helps us appreciate the people who grow our food for us!

Gardening encourages healthy eating.

Fruits and vegetables are essential to a healthy diet as they provide vitamins, minerals, fiber and other nutrients. Many people do not eat enough fruits and vegetables as is. It is common for us to enjoy eating fruits and vegetables more if they are grown in our garden and fresh!

(continued on page 2)





https://www.twincreeks.k-state.edu/

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Gardening gives youth the opportunity to grow and care for something on their own. Not only does the opportunity to grow and care for something instill life skills in our youth such as responsibility, dedication, time management, etc., it also allows them to feel a sense of accomplishment as they see something through from beginning to end. It allows them the opportunity to be a steward of the environment.

After hearing all of these wonderful attributes to kids in the garden, what's not to love? We in the Twin Creeks District will be offering a youth gardening series titled "Dirty Hands, Healthy Kids" and we hope that you will join us in the fun!

The 'Dirty Hands, Healthy Kids' Twin Creeks District Youth Gardening Series is slated to last throughout our typical garden series, which runs from April-September with a variety of in-person and take-home activity kits available. (Zoom sessions will be an option for youth/families not comfortable with attending inperson sessions.) We will cover several important steps of the gardening foundation, topics including but not limited to Soil Health, Seed Planting, Transplanting, Water Conservation, Pollination, Preparing for Exhibit, Community Service, Proper Harvesting, Eating Your Healthy Produce, Preserving Your Crop.

This series will be targeted for Grades 3-5, but any and all age groups are welcome to join us! 4-H Members and non-4-Her's are all welcome alike! Family participation is encouraged!

Registration for the series will remain open through September, but is encouraged early to ensure you are receiving direct notifications of upcoming sessions and take-home activities!

Participants will be asked to sign-up for each activity separately by contacting their local TCD Office or responding to the corresponding sign-up link to ensure adequate activity supply counts.

To stay up-to-date on upcoming activities, watch our website, Facebook page, local newspapers and registered participants will receive email notification!

REGISTER FOR THE SERIES HERE:

https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5cjE2qb7NN99tDU

Jenilee Godsey is a Youth Agriculture Agent for the Twin Creeks Extension District which covers Decatur, Norton, Graham and Sheridan counties. Email her at jenileem@ksu.edu or reach her by telephone at the Graham County Office, (785) 421-3411.





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Decatur:Graham:Norton:Sheridan:785-475-8121785-421-3411785-877-5755785-675-3268

APRIL - SEPTEMBER

Join the fun to learn about:

- Seed Planting
- Soil & Soil Health
- Transplanting
- Weeding
- Garden Safety
- Water Conservation/Mulching
- Insects & Pollination
- Preparing for Exhibit
- Community Service
- Proper Harvesting
- Cooking & Preparing Your Harvest
- Garden Wrap-Up
- Preserving Your Crop
- Garden Fitness & Fun

A mixture of in-person (offered in each county of the district dependent upon interest/registration) and takehome activities will make up this series. In-person sessions can be offered via Zoom for participants if desired.

THIS SERIES IS OPEN TO:

-- Any Age! (Recommended for Grades 3-5, but any age group is welcome to participate.)

-- 4-H Members and Non-4-Her's Welcome!

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 the Twin Creeks Extension District at 785-421-3411. Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.





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REGISTER FOR THE TRANSPLANTING SESSION HERE: https://doodle.com/poll/8fgp3drrqbupei4i?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link



REGISTER FOR THE WEEDING TAKE-HOME KIT HERE: https://doodle.com/poll/n922xzngzfm55rqf?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link



REGISTER FOR THE SERIES TO GET MORE INFORMATION ON THESE TWO SESSION WHEN AVAILABLE!

https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV 5cjE2qb7NN99tDU

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Roots & Chutes

Written By: Alyssa Rippe-May Interim District Director & Livestock and Farm Management Agent



Here is an article written by Lisa Moser with her 'Cattle Chat' article that explains Bovine Viral Diarrhea

Cattle Chat: How does BVD impact the herd?

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Calves with respiratory problems, cows that naturally abort their calves, deformed calves and scours in the herd are just a few of the signs that a cow-calf producer may have Bovine Viral Diarrhea circulating among the cattle, according to Kansas State University Beef Cattle Institute veterinarians Bob Larson and Brad White.

Talking on a recent BCI Cattle Chat podcast, Larson said though diarrhea is part of the name, BVD presents itself in many ways.

"BVD is a unique virus because it impacts animals of all ages through multiple body systems," Larson said.

The biggest source of the virus, Larson said, comes from the persistently infected animals in the herd. So, if a calf is born with this virus, it will shed the virus throughout its entire life.

"These calves were actually infected in gestation as a fetus," Larson said. If those cattle survive to birth, they will continually shed the virus as they move about the herd to expose other animals, according to Larson.

He explained this can occur when a pregnant cow is exposed to a persistently infected calf. While she may recover from the virus, the fetus in the womb becomes persistently infected. If the calf survives, it perpetuates the infection when it enters the herd.

White said if a producer suspects they have the BVD virus in the herd, it is important to consult with a veterinarian and explore a testing strategy prior to breeding. This strategy involves testing all the calves in the herd.

"If the calf is persistently infected, it will need to be removed from the herd and likely euthanized, so it doesn't expose other animals. Producers need to be prepared for that possibility when they opt for testing," White said. Larson added the is highly accurate.

Both veterinarians agreed that the likelihood of having BVD in the herd without signs is low. "Our best estimate is that BVD is circulating in about 7% of the herds in the country," Larson said. To help producers evaluate their risk, Larson and his team have built a <u>BVD Consult</u> app that they can use.

To hear more of the discussion, go to the **<u>BCI Cattle Chat</u>** podcast online.



Kansas Farm Management Association Summary Meeting May 24, 2021 @ Noon Sheridan County 4-H Building *Please RSVP by Friday, May 21st for the meal count.

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Chasing Clovers Written By: Patsy Maddy 4-H Youth Development Agent



Responsible Decision Making

Responsibility -- Webster's definition -- 1) the quality or state of being responsible, such as moral, legal or mental accountability, reliability and trustworthiness. Being responsible involves being in charge of your own actions and choices, carrying out what needs to be done and being a good role model.

It is important that parents show good character by being responsible and portraying good role models. Perhaps they could become an assistant 4-H volunteer in a project area or study to become knowledgeable about a subject matter area. Another aspect of responsibility is being available when needed, showing proper work habits and modeling for members that the value of experiences is much more significant than being the top winner and receiving prizes and awards.

There are many activities that help youth understand the role of responsibility in project areas. For example, divide club members into groups so that each addresses a different step in a project activity. Have the groups brainstorm and identify a member's responsibility related to the step they are assigned. Take turns having each group present their list. After each presentation, encourage members to further discuss the importance of responsibility in the step.

The 4-H program provides 4-H club leaders with many opportunities to teach character education and life skill development. There are many opportunities for 4-H members to practice and demonstrate good personal character.

Responsible behaviors in the 4-H program include conducting timely and appropriate decisions about each enrolled project and meeting deadlines with those project areas. Maintaining an accurate project record book is another important component of the 4-H program. Members should responsibly record activities, events and educational experiences for their projects and take pictures to document growth.

America's foremost youth development initiative. Contact Patsy Maddy at the Twin Creeks District Extension office by calling 785-877-5755 or send an email to <u>pmaddy@ksu.edu</u>. 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 Twin Creeks Extension District, Norton office, 785-877-5755.

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Top 10 Foods that Fight Inflammation

Written By: Karen Shepard Family Consumer Science Agent

Whether it's an injury, arthritis or infection, our bodies often respond with inflammation, a sign that it's working to ward off whatever it is that ails us.

But when inflammation becomes chronic, there are natural ways to help manage it through what we eat, according to a Kansas State University nutrition educator.



"A lot of foods have these healthful traits, but some foods do make every list,"

said Sandy Procter, state nutrition specialist with K-State Research and Extension. Her top 10 list of foods with anti-inflammatory properties include:

- 1. Berries, including blueberries, strawberries, raspberries and more.
- 2. Salmon, tuna and other fatty fish (yes, sardines, too).
- 3. Tomatoes.
- 4. Nuts, including walnuts and almonds.
- 5. Broccoli.
- 6. Olive oil, especially extra virgin olive oil.
- 7. Peppers, including bell and chili peppers.
- 8. Dark green, leafy vegetables such as spinach, kale, and collards.
- 9. Green tea.
- 10. Chocolate and cocoa.

Turmeric, cherries, fresh herbs and spices also are helpful.

So, does this mean those dark chocolate-covered almonds that tend to jump into our shopping carts are good for us?

"I'd say, definitely better than most candies," Procter said, "and if that little bit of sweet replaces say, a handful of cookies or a piece of cake, then yes. Portion control then becomes the issue."

Different components in foods have anti-inflammatory effects. They differ from food to food. Fruits and vegetables contain antioxidants, whole grains contain fiber and nuts and seeds have fiber and healthy oils.

"Because there are so many different substances that fight inflammation, a varied healthy diet is important," Procter said. "That way, we introduce many diverse types of inflammation-fighting components into our bodies on a regular basis."

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When asked if these foods are more important as people age and develop conditions such as arthritis, Procter said: "These foods are excellent throughout life – if healthy food choices start early, then those healthy food habits will support good health as a

person ages. Many chronic diseases, such as obesity and Type 2 diabetes, are related to chronic inflammation. We know those diseases are affecting more people at younger ages, so starting early is very important."

But it's never too late to improve our food choices and to eat healthier, she added. Most anti-inflammatory foods are also the ones that make up the Mediterranean eating pattern, which is mostly made up of fruits, vegetables, nuts, whole grains, fish and healthy oils. People who follow that diet from the earliest ages frequently live notably long and healthy lives.

Can people eat enough of these foods to make a difference?

"In a word, yes," Procter said. "Research has shown it is the foods themselves in the overall diet, not supplements, that really bring about healthful benefits. That's why we are consistently encouraged to eat more fruits and vegetables, choose whole grain foods and to vary our protein. Plus, if we focus on those anti-inflammatory foods, and avoid or limit the foods shown to cause inflammation, we are taking huge strides for health."

Foods that cause inflammation and should be avoided or only eaten in moderation, include refined carbohydrates, such as white bread and pastries; French fries and other fried foods; soda and other sugarsweetened beverages; red meat and processed meats including hot dogs, sausage; and margarine, shortening and lard, according to Harvard Health Publishing at Harvard Medical School (2020).

"It is no coincidence that most of the same foods to avoid for inflammation are generally considered bad for our health," Procter said.

Procter herself said she's always eaten fruits and vegetables and is discovering even more healthy foods: "I have learned to love salmon, and nuts, and more beans and whole grains than I ever knew existed. Avocadoes are a more recent preference. And – I have learned to appreciate dark, dark chocolate!"

"Even foods we don't think are necessarily exciting – like black coffee, apples and mushrooms – are high in anti-inflammatory components," she added.

More information about human nutrition is available on the <u>K-State</u> <u>Extension Food, Nutrition, Dietetics and Health.</u>







Planning on Canning? Prep now for Food Safety

Submitted By: Karen Shepard

K-State food scientist encourages recipes validated by research.

Gardeners are making their plans, and in some areas,

vegetables and other foods are already being planted. A Kansas State University food scientist figures those are pretty good signs that food preservation season is not far away

"Now is the time to check canning equipment and make repairs needed or replace worn items," said Karen Blakeslee, who is also coordinator of K-State's Rapid Response Center for food science. "Examine jars and take damaged ones out of your canning supply. Canning lids were in short supply last year, so be patient as those supplies get replenished."

Blakeslee said that K-State Research and Extension offices across the state can check several brands of dial gauge pressure canners - including Presto, National, Maid of Honor and Magic Seal - to make

sure they are working properly. This service is free.

"If you are new to canning, practice using your equipment now before you want to can food," Blakeslee said. "Learn how the canners work with your stovetop. Use water-filled jars as substitutes to process through the canners. Also, be aware that some canners should not be used on flat, glass stovetops. Always follow the canner and stove manufacturer's directions."

Blakeslee also encouraged using canning recipes that have been validated by research.

"Following those recipes and directions will help insure a safely canned food," she said. "A majority of food preservation failures occur due to user errors. And don't forget to adjust your processing for our location's elevation." For the Twin Creeks area, our elevation ranges from 2536 to 3113 feet above sea level. This means all canning recipes will need to be adjusted accordingly.

Several recipes, how-to videos and publications on food preservation and canning are available online through the Rapid Response Center.

"Take the time to get educated before you start," Blakeslee said. "This will help guide you to making safe food and reducing waste."

As mentioned above, we encourage you to check your dial gauge pressure canners each year. This can be done in our Extension offices for free. For your convenience I would recommended to call and make an appointment so that we will can test the gauge and inspect your lid's gasket quickly.



Home Canning

We have the USDA Complete Guide to Home Canning book available for purchase at each of our offices. The Guide includes the principles of home canning, selecting, preparing as well as the proper way to can fruits, vegetables and meats. They also have an extensive section on pickling, jams and jellies. The cost of the book is \$18.00.



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Now Hiring!

4-H Program Assistant Job Opportunity

Twin Creeks Extension District is seeking a part-time 4-H Program Assistant to be based out of the Sheridan County office. This position will work approximately 30 hours per week, dependent upon the needs of the 4-H program with more time expected during summer months, county fair, etc. This motivated professional is responsible for assisting the 4-H Youth Development program under the direction of the 4-H Agent in the Twin Creeks District with special emphasis in Sheridan County and Decatur County. KPERS retirement and cell phone stipend are available. For a complete job description and application, please stop by theTwin Creeks Extension Office at 925 9th St., Hoxie, KS, call 785-475-8121, or visit our website at twincreeks.k-state.edu.Applications and resumes are required. Applications will be reviewed beginning May 10th. Position is open until filled. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY.

4-H Program Assistant Job Opportunity

Twin Creeks Extension District, Graham County office is seeking a Full-Time Office Professional, Monday -Friday, 40 hrs./week. Starting pay will be dependent upon professional experience. KPERS retirement and health stipend are available. Skills necessary include: Basic bookkeeping, effective oral and written communication, takes initiative, willingness to learn, organized, detail-oriented, reliable, follows through on tasks. General secretarial skills and a positive attitude are a must. This position has the opportunity to focus on graphic design, marketing, and social media use. Experience in these areas is a plus. For a complete job description and application, please stop by or call the Twin Creeks Extension Office at 410 N. Pomeroy, Courthouse, Hill City, KS. 785-421-3411 or visit our website at twincreeks.k-state.edu. Applications and resumes are required. Applications will be reviewed beginning May 10th. Position open until filled. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY.

> FOR MORE INFORMATION & APPLICATIONS VISIT: https://www.twincreeks.k-state.edu/job-positions/index.html



Views With Van

Written By: Keith VanSkike Agronomy, Natural Resources, & Entomology Agent

"Alfalfa Weevil"

Alfalfa weevil larvae continue to feed and thus increase in size. However, after monitoring several fields throughout northwest Kansas over the last 10 days, there was not yet any field that had a large infestation level. Infestation level is determined by the "stem count bucket" method where individual stems are removed and quickly shaken into a 1gallon bucket to dislodge any weevil larvae that may be present. Next, count the number of larvae in the bucket and divide into the number of stems shaken into the bucket to get the percent (%) of infested stems. Alfalfa weevil monitoring should continue, however, as we are still relatively early, and more larvae will probably be hatching.





"Army Cutworm in Alfalfa"

Damage occurs in late February, March, and sometimes in April. This pest is usually more of a problem if dry conditions retard growth. Worms may destroy small plants. Foliage damage can reduce harvest from the first cutting of older alfalfa. Detecting the infestation before foliage is destroyed is critical for control success. If possible, controls should be applied when larvae are above ground. Seedling stands suffer the most damage. Proper sampling requires sifting soil through a coarse mesh screen in at least five places in the field. Treat when two or more larvae per square foot are present in seedling fields, or four or more per square foot are found in established fields. If a majority of larvae are 1-1/4 inch or longer they are about to pupate and treatment is not justified.

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"Army Cutworm in Wheat"

Larvae begin feeding during the winter whenever temperatures rise a few degrees above freezing. Small larvae create "windowpane" holes that often go unnoticed unless plants are carefully inspected. Larvae hide in loose soil at the base of plants, emerging to feed in the evening. Unlike other cutworms, only above-ground plant parts are consumed, giving plants the appearance of being grazed by cattle. Infestations in well-established stands will probably not require insecticide applications while wheat is dormant, but some fields never green up in the spring because of cutworm feeding. Frequent inspections during warm periods in March, and early April are strongly encouraged, particularly when preceded by a dry fall. Moisture availability, crop condition, and regrowth potential are all factors influencing potential losses to this pest. Late planted fields under dry conditions with poor tillering may suffer economic damage with as few as one or two larvae per square foot. In most fields, treatment will not be necessary until populations average four to five worms per square foot. Vigorous, well-tillered fields under optimal growing conditions can tolerate even higher populations, as many as nine or 10 larvae per square foot, without measurable yield loss. Infestations in later stages of crop development are less damaging than early ones because







"Pea Aphids"

Pea aphids are prevalent at low levels but increasing in population density. However, much like alfalfa weevils, numbers are somewhat low. These pea aphid populations are often utilized by Beneficial's early in the season to increase their populations, which often help against other pests in other crops, i.e. green bugs, corn leaf aphids, soybean aphids, etc. Again, monitoring pea aphids should also continue until swathing.

Alfalfa weevils and pea aphids are considered cool-season pests and primarily affect alfalfa up to the 1st cutting. Most alfalfa weevil larvae may be approaching threatening numbers in the next few weeks with the predicted temperatures of '60-'70s for the day. Sampling for both alfalfa weevil larvae and pea aphids should be a regular routine and timely scouting of fields up until the first cut.

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Registration: https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3aPoQeBzDoXNyWa Pre-registration is requested by Tuesday, May 4, either online at www.postrock.ksu.edu or call the Post Rock Extension District, Smith Center Office at 785-282-6823 or email Sandra L. Wick, swick@ksu.edu or call the Twin Creeks Extension District, Norton Office at 785-877-5755 or email Keith VanSkike, kvan@ksu.edu. Once registered a zoom link will be sent to your email.



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TO REGISTER CLICK HERE:

https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3aPoQeBzDoXNyWa



TO REGISTER FOR 'QUALITY MATTERS', CLICK HERE:

https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3KTQdZK1nrHo9Bs?

fbclid=IwAR1GAISZJ2osnFMTcJX1xbmnuL2pa2JyXDqdqNdT9JNik4Hg7Exr4rGt4PM



WATCH FOR MORE INFO ON 'JUDGE'S CHOICE' TO COME!



WATCH FOR DATES & INFORMATION ON THESE UPCOMING PROGRAMS!

Ag & Natural Resources

- Green Thumb Thursday Facebook Posts -- Continuing Throughout Spring/Summer
- Twin Creeks District Farmland Leasing Summary Information and Meeting -- Spring 2021
- TCD Wheat Plot Updates -- Virtually in 2021
- Kansas Farm Management Assoc. Meeting (Hoxie) -- May 24th, 2021 @ 12:00 PM

Family & Consumer Science

• Walk Kansas -- Continues Throughout May

Youth Agriculture

- Swine Across Kansas Series -- Multiple Session thru 2021, 3rd Session: May 10th!
- 'Dirty Hands, Healthy Kids' Youth Gardening Series -- Continues Throughout September
- Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) -- Oberlin, May 20th & Norton, TBD
- Livestock Showmanship Workshop -- Spring/Summer 2021

To stay current on upcoming program dates, registration info, etc. <u>follow us on Facebook</u> and/or <u>check our Twin Creeks District Website</u>!







Clover Corner



Statewide Dates & Deadlines

| May 5: | 4-H Campference Registration Deadline |
|-----------|--|
| May 15: | Discovery Days Registration Deadline |
| June 1-4: | Discovery Days (Virtual) |
| June 15: | Kansas State Fair/Kansas Junior Livestock Show Nominations Due |
| | (Swine, Sheep, Goat & Commercial Heifers) |
| June 15: | Bob Hines Kansas Swine Classic Entries Due |
| July 15: | Kansas State Fair Grand Drive Entry Deadline |
| July 25: | Kansas State Fair Grand Drive Late Entry Deadline |

County Dates & Deadlines

| May 3 & 5: | Graham Co. Small Animal Weigh-In (Sheep, Swine, Goat & Bucket Calf) |
|-----------------|---|
| May 20: | Decatur County Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) |
| June 8-9: | Great Northwest 4-H Camp Counselor Training |
| June 9-12: | Great Northwest Camp |
| July 19-25: | Sheridan County Fair |
| July 24-31: | Norton County Fair |
| July 29-Aug. 4: | Graham County Fair |
| August 3-7: | Decatur County Fair |

Our district will be implementing protocols to help reduce the threat of COVID-19 transmission. These protocols will include wearing a mask, practicing social distancing and excellent hygiene. Participation in face-to-face meetings will not be allowed without the wearing of a mask.

If you choose not to wear a mask, please join our meeting via our virtual option or request a recorded version that would be distributed following the meeting.

Note: Youth events are open to ALL youth (with Extension agent approval for youth not currently enrolled in the 4-H program). If you have a youth that is interested in an event please contact Patsy Maddy, Twin Creeks Extension District 4-H Youth Development Agent **pmaddy@ksu.edu**.

Go to the Twin Creeks District website at <u>https://tinyurl.com/qukdd97</u> for a complete listing of all activities and events at the local, district, area and state levels.





K-STATE Research and Extension

Twin Creeks District

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