

# Agriculture

## CENTRAL KANSAS EXTENSION DISTRICT NEWS

[centralkansas.ksu.edu](http://centralkansas.ksu.edu)

**March 2020**

### Upcoming Events

#### March

- 24- Mid America Farm Expo, Salina
- 26
- 28 Tractor Safety Course, Ellsworth

#### April

- 11 Tractor Safety Course, Prairie Land Partners, Concordia
- 16 Saline County Women In Ag

#### May

- 22 CKD Wheat Plot Tour
- 26 Tractor Safety Course, Salina

#### July

- 21- Ottawa County Fair
- 24

#### August

- 4-9 Tri-Rivers Fair

**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

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

[ksre.k-state.edu](http://ksre.k-state.edu)

### Communication is Key

The 2020 Mid America Farm Expo has several programs that are very beneficial to producers. In my first year in extension, one of the more common questions has to do with land values, lease rates, and tenant-landlord relationships. Dr. Mykel Taylor has two programs covering those subjects, and I encourage everyone to attend.

Relationships should be a focus to producers, though many times they become overlooked by our constant need to get the task at hand done. It is easy to get complacent when it comes to communication. The assumption that the other party understands what is happening and why you are doing things this way can be the downfall of an operation. Farming is a very complex occupation. Changing economic environments, different cropping practices, and how busy our lives have become make it difficult to understand details.

Transparency is a goal; building a good relationship will prove to be beneficial when evaluating lease agreements. Though I am a believer in taking people at their word and handshake, having a written agreement is useful as it will become a resource that both parties can refer back to when memory lapses.

### Be aware of Army Cutworms

Army cutworms are currently present in wheat and alfalfa fields around the district. Army cutworm feeding looks like window panning progressing to animal grazing without the footprints. Larvae hides in loose soil around the base of the plant and emerge to feed in the evenings. 1 to 2 worms per square foot can justify treatment in lesser established stands. Crops that are further along in development, and are actively growing can withstand 4 to 5 larvae per square foot before treatment is warranted. Be aware of birds feeding in fields as they are excellent indicators of an infestation. If you have seedling alfalfa or small wheat, now's the time to get out and make sure your stand is not being compromised. Be sure to check several areas and do some digging to understand how many worms are present.

## Women in Ag: Farm Programs and Crop Insurance

Farm Programs and Crop Insurance are the topics of this spring's Saline County Women in Ag meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 16. Panelists will include Amanda Ahrens and Kevin W. Vondra with Farm Service Agency, Kristin Kuntz, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and Jay Wisbey, K-State Research and Extension.



Come learn what FSA and NRCS have to offer, including farm programs, conservation programs, livestock disaster programs, acreage reporting and payment eligibility. Crop insurance as a risk management tool will also be discussed.

If you are a woman involved in agriculture, whether producer, spouse, landlord, or are interested in learning more, plan to attend this free Women in Ag program. The session will be at American Ag Credit at 925 W. Magnolia, Salina, KS. Registration begins at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, April 16, followed by the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Drinks and dessert will be served. Pre-registration is requested. Call the K-State Research & Extension office in Salina, at 785-309-5850 by April 13 to register.

This Women in Ag meeting is sponsored by K-State Research & Extension-Central Kansas District, Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, American Ag Credit, Saline County Conservation District, and Saline County Farm Bureau.

## Website updates

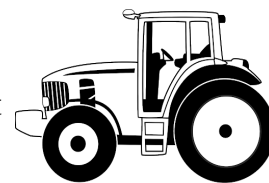
Recently, I have been working on the Central Kansas District crops web page to make it a better information resource, including convenient links to relevant cropping information. Several tabs were created to cover different crops, including topics such as production handbooks, performance tests, insect identification, soil fertility, plant pathology, weed management, and several other crop-related publications.

The weather tab includes links to the Kansas Mesonet site, which is a series of weather stations across the state, providing historical and real-time climate information. One station is inside the Central Kansas District located North West of Gypsum, KS. It records air temperature, soil temp, soil moisture, wind speed, direction, precipitation, and more. Also linked to the weather tab is the Cocorahs site, a volunteer network of people recording precipitation data of rain, hail, and snow.

I plan to continue to develop the website. If you have ideas of other topics that you would like added to the email mailing list, contact me via email [jwisbey@ksu.edu](mailto:jwisbey@ksu.edu) or call the office 1-785-309-5850.

## Tractor Safety Course

Persons ages 14 and 15 seeking employment in production agriculture that are not directly related to the employers are required by law to have completed the course. Training is designed to consistently cover core content areas including safety basics, agricultural hazards, tractors, connecting and using implements with tractors, and materials handling. Cost is \$25, and if you would like more information or to RSVP, contact our Salina office at 785-309-5850 or Minneapolis at 785-392-2147.





9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 24  
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 25  
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Thursday, March 26

Tony's Pizza Events Center and  
Saline County Expo Center

## 2020 Mid America Farm Expo Programs

### Tuesday, March 24

**Tenant and Landlord Relationship Management** Sponsored by: Farmers & Ranchers, Salina  
*Mykel Taylor, Associate Professor*  
*Kansas State University Department of Agricultural Economics*  
**10:00 - 11:30am, 4H Building**

**Land Values and Lease Rates** Sponsored by: Farmers & Ranchers, Salina  
*Mykel Taylor, Associate Professor*  
*Kansas State University Department of Agricultural Economics*  
**1:30 - 3:00pm, 4H Building**

### Wednesday, March 25

**Analyzing Alternatives for Improving Loan Repayment Capacity: Where Should I Spend My Time?**  
*Freddie L Barnard, Professor Emeritus of Agricultural Economics* Sponsored by: Salina Area Bankers  
*Purdue University College of Agriculture*  
**10-11:30am, 4H Building**

**Precision Ag and Ag Data** Sponsored by: Prairieland Partners  
*Jeff Allison, Integrated Solutions Manager*  
*PrairieLand Partners*  
**1:30-3:00pm, 4-H Building**

### Thursday, March 26

**Livestock and Grain Marketing Outlook** Sponsored by: American AgCredit  
*Matt Bennett, Commodity Analyst*  
*AgMarket.Net*  
**10-11:30am; 4-H Building**

### Happening Daily

**Free Well Water Testing** Sponsored by: Saline County Environmental Services  
Bring 1 cup of water in clean, disposable container \*Testing for nitrate and chloride  
**10am-2pm in Tony's Pizza Events Center**

### Health Feature: Wednesday Only

**CPR Information Booth (TPEC)** Sponsored by: K-State Research & Extension

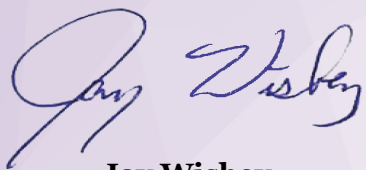
**Central Kansas Extension District  
Minneapolis Office**

307 N. Concord, Suite 190  
Minneapolis, KS 67467-2129

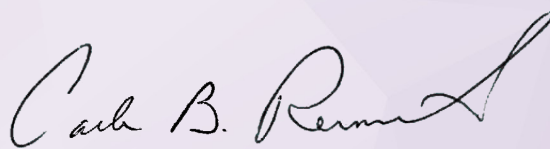
Address Service Requested

The enclosed material is for your information. If we can be of further assistance, feel free to call or drop by the Extension Office.

Sincerely,



**Jay Wisbey**  
District Extension Agent  
Crop Production  
jwisbey@ksu.edu



**Cade B. Rensink, MS, PAS**  
District Extension Agent  
Livestock Production  
crensink@ksu.edu

**Salina Office**  
K-State Polytechnic  
2218 Scanlan Ave.  
Salina, KS 67401-8196  
785-309-5850  
Fax: 785-309-5851

**Minneapolis Office**  
307 N. Concord, Suite 190  
Minneapolis, KS 67467  
785-392-2147  
Fax: 785-392-3605