

Post Rock Extension District

Cassie Thiessen

Horticulture Extension Agent



April Gardening Calendar

- Spring is finally here, and it's time to take care of our blooming landscapes. This is a busy season for most of us, but getting outside can be relaxing and rewarding. Use this helpful checklist to have a colorful landscape this year.

**Vegetables and Fruits**

  - Start fruit tree spray schedule when growth begins
  - Plant carrots, onions, beets, and other salad crops in early April
  - Thin radishes, beets, and carrots as needed
  - Harvest asparagus until spear size decreases.
  - Prune fruit trees if not already done
  - Plant new fruit trees
  - Plant asparagus and rhubarb
  - Remove mulch from strawberry bed
  - Prune raspberry and blackberry plantings
  - Plant beans, corn, and vine crops in late April
  - Cultivate to control seedling weed growth
  - Turn the compost pile after a long winter rest
  - Transplant broccoli, cauliflower, and cabbage in the garden
  - Fertilize the vegetable garden before planting

**Flowers**

  - Cut back last year's growth from perennials
  - Remove seed heads from spring bulbs
- Do not remove foliage from spring flowering bulbs, as growth is needed for next year's flowers
  - Fertilize spring flowering bulbs
  - Add organic matter such as compost before planting new flowers
  - Divide perennials
  - Plant new roses
  - Prune rose bushes
  - Fertilize rose bushes for spring growth
  - Plant annuals from seed and transplants
  - Lawns
  - Apply crabgrass control by mid-month
  - Mow lawn as needed, bluegrass 2", tall fescue 3"
  - Fertilize cool season lawns with slow release nitrogen fertilizer
  - Do not fertilize zoysia this early in spring, nutrients go to weeds, not dormant grass
  - Spot treat broadleaf weeds such as dandelions, henbit, and chickweed
  - Check mower and make needed repairs before season begins
  - Sharpen mower blade
  - No need to catch grass clippings if mowing frequently
  - Do not water unless extremely dry, early irrigation sets turf up as high water user in summer

**Trees and Shrubs**

  - Prune spring flowering shrubs such as forsythia and
- lilac after flowering

  - Prune trees as needed, and repair winter storm damage
  - Topping is not pruning, never top a tree
  - Plant new trees and shrubs
  - Remove grass from the base of young trees and shrubs to prevent lawn mower and line trimmer damage
  - Apply mulch layer around plants
  - Keep new trees and shrubs watered
  - Fertilize young trees to promote growth

**Houseplants**

  - Remove winter dust from leaves by gently rinsing with room temperature water
  - Repot as needed, increase pot size by 1"
  - Leach excess fertilizers from soil with water
  - Begin summer fertilization of plants
  - Do not move plants outside until night temperatures remain over 60 degrees
  - Propagate house plants by cuttings or divisions
  - Fertilize amaryllis and keep in bright light to encourage new leaves


K-State Research and Extension has a variety of resources for all your gardening and landscaping needs this summer. Stop by or give us a call with your questions.

Q & A from the Canopy

By Landen Cleveland

Game Warden Mitchell & Osborne counties

KDWP LE Division



Spring Turkey Season

Spring Turkey Season is almost here, and there has been a common question the last couple of year from turkey hunters. Is the “scoot & shoot” method legal in Kansas? The answer is, it is legal. Let’s remember, just because something is legal, doesn’t mean it is safe. Let me start by explaining the practice to those that don’t know what it is. The scoot and shoot is when someone takes a turkey fan and puts the fan in front of them in one hand and then “scoots” towards a tom (adult male) turkey with his/her shotgun in his other hand. Sometimes the tom sees the fan and runs off, but other times the tom sees the fan and charges it thinking it is another tom turkey. The turkey charges and thinks he is going to fight the fan and at the last second the hunter drops the fan and raises his shotgun with both hands and shoots the turkey. Where this is legal, I am sure you can understand where hiding behind a turkey fan during turkey season may be a little dangerous. If you have any questions, please visit our website or email me at: [landen.cleveland@ks.gov](mailto:landen.cleveland@ks.gov).

Osborne County Commissioners

The Osborne County Commissioners met March 31, 2025. Thopse present: Rex Johnston, Craig Pottberg, Troy Schaefer and Heather Betzold, County Clerk. Pottberg called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. in chambers.

Schaefer made a motion approve transfer vouchers 2025-014 for \$25,158.72; 2025-015 for #10,009.17; 2025-016 for \$184.80; and 2025-017 for \$1,217.41, Johnston second. Motion carried.

Chris Rhodes, IT/EM, met with commissioners to discuss advertisement for the Weather Spotters Meeting. The public is invited to the Basic Weather Spotters meeting held April 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the Osborne Public Library Meeting Room.

Terry Nichols, R&B, met with commissioners to inform the Landfill Committee will meet April 24 at 2 p.m.; and training classes for personnel.

Johnston made a motion to send the landfill dozer #953 to Salina for repairs on the rail, Schaefer second. Motion carried.

Nichols also informed commissioners of tire bids and pipe orders are being worked on.

Schaefer made a motion to approve the March 24, 2025 minutes with addition, Johnston second. Motion carried.

Schaefer made a motion to approve checks & vouchers in the amount of \$13,287.16, Johnston second. Motion carried.

Commissioners discussed the email research from Shannon Praete on the Rodeo Area/ Racetrack project.

Pottberg made a motion to go into executive session for non-elected personnel for the purpose of evaluation of employee in courthouse for five minutes starting at 9:30-9:35 a.m. with Boxum, Betzold, and Commissioners present, Johnston second. Motion carried.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 9:35 a.m.

Pottberg made a motion to go into executive session for non-elected personnel for the purpose of evaluation of employee in courthouse for 10 minutes starting at 9:35-9:45 a.m. with Boxum, Betzold, and Commissioners present, Johnston second. Motion carried.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 9:45 a.m.

Commissioners discussed Osborne County Fairgrounds insurance options.

Richard Dietz, Attorney, and George Eakin, Osborne Industries met with commissioners to discuss proposed revisions to the settlement agreement on the old hospital.

Commissioners discussed Covered Breezeway between Sheriff Dept and old hospital, property lines and parking lot with Scottie Becker, Sheriff via telephone.

Pottberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 a.m., Schaefer second. Motion carried.

Insight

Jackie Mundt,

Pratt County farmer and rancher

Simple Questions

Recently, I visited a culinary school as part of a stakeholder advocacy training through American Farm Bureau’s Partners in Advocacy Leadership (PAL) program.

My PAL classmates and I gave a presentation about our farms and involvement in agriculture to first-year culinary students. Each of us was asked to bring some unique goodies from our home states. We had a pretty impressive spread from sweet potatoes and rice to pistachios and jalapenos jam.

Kansas is known for our grain and beef, which are common ingredients many foods. It is overwhelming to decide what single item best represents those ingredients and is fun to share like my classmates’ chocolate milk straws and hazelnuts. Luckily a group of culinary students is the perfect group to showcase some of Kansas’ finest ingredients. I took both Hudson Cream wheat flour from Hudson and Nu Life Market sorghum flour from Scott City.

Flour was a great idea until I had to figure out the logistics of getting 24 pounds of it to Chicago. Luckily, I was able to have my Nu Life Market order shipped, but the only way to get the Hudson flour was to take it with me on the plane. I made a strategic choice to take the three 5-pound bags of flour in my carry-on so I wouldn’t go over the weight allowance for my checked bag.

Unsurprisingly, my carry-on was selected for additional screening while going through security. Bags of flour probably don’t rank near the craziest thing that TSA agents have seen, but I like to think that the mystery powder in my bag made their morning a little bit more exciting.

My favorite part of visiting with the culinary students was taking questions. We had expected questions about food production practices like what is the difference between grass-fed and grain-fed beef. We discussed the misconception about the differences and frequency of corporate verses family farms. A great conversation thread about rising food prices led our group to share about farm economics and that farmers don’t necessarily make more money when retail food prices go up.

One of the most unexpected questions was about fuel. I mentioned in my introduction that our cooperative has a fuel division, which led to a question about why a cooperative sells fuel. It seems simple to us to know farms have tractors, combines, trucks and all kinds of other equipment. But a 20-something student from Chicago has probably never thought about needing fuel to run equipment. In their mental picture of Old McDonald’s farm, he is not in a semi-truck, combine or utility vehicle. His little old tractor is way off in the background and when he rides it he smiles and waves like in a parade.

The students at the culinary school weren’t ignorant or incompetent, they genuinely didn’t know and were curious about what happens on our farms. We take for granted people in a city know anything about rural life at all. We brace ourselves for the tough questions about GMOs, organic labels and animal welfare. People do care about those topics but they probably have a ton of simple questions to ask before going that deep.

It was great that the aspiring chefs felt comfortable asking us questions about our lives. We need more of these interactions in our society — seemingly different worlds connecting through conversation, asking simple questions, getting to know each other and finding connections.

*"Insight" is a weekly column published by Kansas Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm organization whose mission is to strengthen agriculture and the lives of Kansans through advocacy, education and service.*

Legal Notice



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