From the desk of Rickey…

Spring has sprung… or at least it is springing. Spring has long been my favorite season of the year. Spring rains, baby calves, brome grass, no more ice to chop, the great outdoors… I’m not sure why, I suppose it is all of these things, but I love spring.

Grass is greening and growing again, trees are budding, gardens are being planted, and on my little farm, baby lambs are on the ground. I think of this as a season of new life.

Whether it is working in the lawn or garden, participating in Walk Kansas, or attending a High School Track Meet, outdoor activities are here. As you flip through these pages, you will find that reflected.

Weather is warming, colors are changing, and finally, it is time to get outside and be active again.

As we all increase our warm weather activities, this seems like a good time to make a healthy living pledge: Gear up to head outside, always remember to be safe, and pray for rain.
Proper Timing for Crabgrass Preventers
By: Ward Upham—K-State Research & Extension Horticulturist

Crabgrass preventers are another name for preemergence herbicides that prevent crabgrass seeds from developing into mature plants. Many people have a somewhat foggy idea of how they work and assume they kill the weed seed. Such is not the case. They do not kill the seed or even keep the seed from germinating but rather kill the young plant after it germinates. Therefore, they do not prevent germination but prevent emergence.

Crabgrass preventers are just that – preventers. With few exceptions they have no effect on existing crabgrass plants, so they must be applied before germination. Additionally, preventers do not last forever once applied to the soil.

Microorganisms and natural processes begin to gradually break them down soon after they are applied. If some products are applied too early, they may have lost much of their strength by the time they are needed. Most crabgrass preventers are fairly ineffective after about 60 days, but there is considerable variation among products. (Dimension and Barricade last longer.)

For most of Kansas, crabgrass typically begins to germinate around May 1 or a little later. April 15 is normally a good target date for applying preventer because it gives active ingredients time to evenly disperse in the soil before crabgrass germination starts. (continued on next page.)
Even better, base timing on the bloom of ornamental plants. The Eastern Redbud tree is a good choice for this purpose. When the trees in your area approach full bloom, apply crabgrass preventer. A follow-up application will be needed about 8 weeks later unless you are using Dimension or Barricade. Products that do require a follow-up application include pendimethalin (Scotts Halts) and Team (Hi-Yield Crabgrass Control).

Dimension and Barricade are the only two products that give season-long control of crabgrass from a single application. In fact, they can be applied much earlier than April 15 and still have sufficient residual strength to last the season. Barricade can even be applied in the fall for crabgrass control the next season.

Note that products containing Dimension and Barricade may use the common name rather than the trade name. The common chemical name for Dimension is dithiopyr and for Barricade is prodiamine. Remember, when using any pesticide, read the label and follow instructions carefully.

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**U.S. Drought Monitor**

The recent rainfall didn’t reduce the drought in Kansas. It was enough to prevent expansion, but not enough to see improvements.
StoryWalk®

The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg Hubbell Library. StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson.

For more information please visit: http://www.kellogghubbell.org/storywalk

Join Us for a Marion County StoryWalk®

- Monday, April 16th 5:00-7:00 PM
  Peabody Park (Gym if Raining)
- Tuesday, April 17th 5:00-7:00 PM
  Marion City Park (City Building Basement if Raining)
- Wednesday, April 19th 5:00-7:00 PM
  Centre Elementary School (Gym if Raining)
- Thursday, April 19th 5:00-7:00 PM
  Hillsboro Park (Library if Raining)
- Friday, April 20th 5:30-7:30 PM
  Goessel Elementary School

StoryWalk® Books: Caps For Sale & Going On A Bear Hunt

Volunteers Needed

Are you looking for a service project for your Organization? The Marion Community Garden is looking for Volunteers to assist with planting, weeding, and harvesting for the 2018 Gardening Year!

How does the Community Garden benefit Marion County? Last year the Community Garden supplied the Marion County Food Bank with over 1800 pounds of fresh produce!

Join us this year as we make it our goal to donate over 2000 pounds of fresh produce to the Neighbors in our Community!

Contact Tristen Cope today! tcope@ksu.edu

Don't Sit There Like a Rock!

Get Up and Walk Kansas!

Mushroom Rock, photo courtesy Kansas Sampler Foundation
Meal Planning 101

Spring can often be a busy time for families. The days start to get longer, a spouse may be working later, sports and extra curricular activities pick back up, and the “typical” happenings of life all create the perfect storm when trying to eat healthy family meals.

As research has shown us, families who have made the effort to schedule meals when most or all of the family members are present have benefits such as: better communication, stronger family bond, shared learning, and improved nutrition.

So what can you do? The USDA ChooseMyPlate recommends the following: Start by looking what ingredients you may already have at your house. Create a list of recipes to try, and think about your weekly schedule when choosing your meals. Then use a worksheet like the one pictured to plan out your meals for the week. Lastly, don’t forget to use your leftovers!

Information Derived From: USDA
Sheep, Swine and Goat Tagging

Wednesday, May 2nd - 6:00 p.m. - Marion County Fairgrounds
If your animals need tagged before May 2, bring them to Rickey at any time.

NOTE: There will be a $75.00 trip charge for tagging done at your own farm.

All market beef nominations are due by May 1, 2018. This is a postmark deadline, which means the visible date on the envelope/package must be May 1st, or before. Families are highly encouraged to get their nominations mailed early (via certified mail) to avoid missing the deadline. All nominations must also be submitted on the updated 2018 forms, or they will not be accepted. These forms still require original signatures from exhibitors, a parent/guardian, and an extension agent for 4-H members.

Market swine, commercial gilt, market lamb, commercial ewe, ALL meat goat, and commercial heifer nominations are due by June 15, 2018.

Important Updates:

• Tattoos are no longer required in commercial heifers.
• The “extra” forms have been reinstated for swine and sheep. These forms are ONLY to be used in addition to the regular nomination form, which has the family contact information and signatures of all parties. The “extra” forms may be used to nominate additional animals beyond what fits on the regular form (4 for swine; 5 for sheep). If the “extra” form is submitted alone, it will be returned to the family to correct, including payment of the $20 incomplete fee.
• Youth PQA Numbers - Youth PQA Plus or YQCA certification will be accepted for swine exhibitors. The National Pork Board will discontinue the Youth PQA Plus program on May 31, 2018. The National Pork Board will honor Youth PQA Plus numbers until they expire. After May 31st, NO ADDITIONAL YOUTH WILL BE ABLE TO GO THROUGH YOUTH PQA PLUS CERTIFICATION. Any youth needing quality assurance certification after May 31st will need to complete YQCA. If your child has completed YQCA, please attach a copy of their certificate to the Declaration Form.
Are you looking for a summer project? The Herington Public Library is seeking one or two 4-H Club members to help with a geology program. This would look great in your Record Book! The summer reading theme for Kansas Libraries is “Libraries Rock!” Summer Reading programs are offered on Thursday mornings in May and June. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Children’s Librarian, Susan Mueller, at 785-366-6358.

2018 Ozsome Camp

- **June 13-16:** Join your friends for swimming, canoeing, horseback riding, and more nature-filled fun at the Rock Springs 4-H Center.
- **Rookie Camp** is available for those finishing 1st & 2nd grade this May. **Full Time Camp** is for those finishing 3rd - 7th grade.
- **Registration is due May 9.**
- The 4-H Endowment Fund is providing scholarships to all members! ($100 for Full Time Campers and $50 for Rookies)

Do you enjoy kids, have lots of energy, and love the outdoors?!
- **Apply to be a camp counselor or an adult volunteer!**
- Registration and details can be found on our website.

Mark your calendar!

**The Marion County Fair is set for Saturday, July 21—Saturday, July 28**

Check out our website for even more events and details!

* Including: Area Workshops & Livestock Events.
  (Bookmark this page and visit often as we update weekly.)
  [http://www.marion.k-state.edu/4-h/4HUpdate.html](http://www.marion.k-state.edu/4-h/4HUpdate.html)
Upcoming Events

April 13—Office Closed

ALSO INSIDE:
StoryWalk,
County Fair dates,
4-H Camp,
Crabgrass Preventers