

# Wichita County

## K-State Research and Extension News

[www.wichita.ksu.edu](http://www.wichita.ksu.edu)

*Knowledge  
for Life*

**December 2014  
January 2015  
Wichita County  
Extension Office**

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Allen Baker  
CEA, Agriculture and  
Natural Resources

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## 2015 Wichita County Extension Council

The following individuals will serve on the Wichita County Extension Council during 2015. The names in bold are the new members recently elected to the council.

### Agriculture PDC

Luke Smith  
Milan Reimer  
**Lauren Wedel**  
Craig Sheppard  
**Steve Graff**  
Craig Berning

### FCS PDC

Ann Wiles  
Janelle Downs  
Helen Ridder  
Tammy Simons  
**Rita Simons**  
Dixie Kiser

### 4-H and Youth PDC

Courtney Young  
Dorene Reimer  
**Misty Gardner**  
Tori Koehn  
Janee Porter  
Tara Biermann

### Community Development PDC

Tyler Graff  
Deb Smith  
Simone Elder  
Aimee Baker  
**Rhei Thurman**  
**Burce Leisy**

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## Extension Council elected the following members to serve on the 2015 Executive Board:

Milan Reimer – Chairman  
Simone Elder – Vice Chairman  
Ann Wiles – Secretary  
Dorene Reimer – Treasurer

Luke Smith – Member  
Tori Koehn – Member  
Lauren Wedel – Member  
Rita Simons – Member  
Bruce Leisy – Member

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## Western State Bank honored at Extension Annual Meeting

It is with great pleasure that the Wichita County Extension Council present their Appreciation Award to Western State Bank.

For as many, many years, Western State Bank has always been a very strong supporter of Extension programming – from 4-H events to programming in FCS and Agriculture. They are a key contributor to the 4-H Premium sale, Achievement Banquet sponsorship, the free barbeque and teen dance at fair, to Sponsoring the 4-H Journal for 64 years.

Western State Bank is truly a team player in the Community, Extension and 4-H programs. We thank you for your willingness to support our mission.

**Thank you Western State for your contribution to  
Wichita County Extension.**

## 2014 Holiday Festival

Wichita County FCE Council held their annual Holiday Festival on November 8th at the Wichita County Community Building.

Twenty vendors were in attendance selling a variety of items, barn quilts, handmade jewelry and crafts, cosmetics, books and much more, and One hundred and sixty five people came to shop and enjoy the demonstrations, seven different demonstrations were given through out the day.

FCE Council served soup and dessert for lunch. Soup in a jar and a chai tea mix were sold with all proceeds going to the scholarship fund. There are a few of the jar soup mixes still available for \$6.00/ jar, for more information contact the Extension Office at 620-375-2724.

**Thank You to who attended and participated!  
Hope to see you again next year!**



# Cultivating the County

Allen Baker, CEA, ANR

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## **Sample and Test Hay Before Winter Feeding**

How will you know how much protein and energy your cows will get when you start feeding your hay and silage? Find out by properly sampling and testing.

Correct sampling techniques, followed by lab tests of forage quality, are necessary for cattle producers who want to get the most value from their forages and profit from their animals.

Maybe the most important step in sampling hay, and sometimes the most difficult step, is deciding which bales and stacks should be included in each sample. Ideally, each sample should include only bales that were produced under nearly identical conditions.

Obviously, the place to start grouping is to separate different types of hay, like alfalfa or CRP or corn stalk hay. But each cutting of hay probably is different from the other cuttings also, so there is another separation. And no two fields or meadows are ever exactly the same, especially if they were cut more than two days apart, so that makes another grouping. And what if part of the field was rained on before it was baled? The hay made without rain damage probably will be different from hay with rain damage.

After you've made all these separations, which could result in quite a few groups of similar bales, then you are ready to sample. From each group collect a dozen or more cores from different bales or stacks to combine into one sample. Be sure to use a good hay probe that can core at least one foot deep into the bale.

Finally, send these samples to a certified lab for tests of energy content and protein, maybe nitrates, and any other nutrients of interest to you. Then use this information to feed your cattle as profitably as possible.

## **Ice Melters**

There are five main materials that are used as chemical de-icers: calcium chloride, sodium chloride (table salt), potassium chloride, urea, and calcium magnesium acetate. Calcium chloride is the traditional ice-melting product. Though it will melt ice to about -25 degrees F, it will form slippery, slimy surfaces on concrete and other hard surfaces. Plants are not likely to be harmed unless excessive amounts are used.

Rock salt is sodium chloride and is the least expensive material available. It is effective to approximately 12 degrees F but can damage soils, plants and metals. Potassium chloride can also cause serious plant injury when washed or splashed on foliage. Both calcium chloride and potassium chloride can damage roots of plants.

Urea (carbonyl diamide) is a fertilizer that is sometimes used to melt ice. Though it is only about 10% as corrosive as sodium chloride, it can contaminate ground and surface water with nitrates. Urea is effective to about 21 degrees F.

Calcium magnesium acetate (CMA), a newer product, is made from dolomitic limestone and acetic acid (the principal compound of vinegar). CMA works differently than the other materials in that it does not form a brine like salt but rather helps prevent snow particles from sticking to each other or the road surface. It has little effect on plant growth or concrete surfaces. Performance decreases below 20 degrees F.

Limited use of any of these products should cause little injury. Problems accumulate when they are used excessively and there is not adequate rainfall to wash or leach the material from the area. Since limited use is recommended it is best to remove the ice and snow by hand when possible. When they are applied, practice moderation. Resist the temptation to over apply just to make sure the ice and snow melts. Keep in mind this can damage concrete surfaces as well as the plants and grass growing along the walks and driveways. These problems are normally latent and do not show up until spring or summer.

## **Ashes in the Garden**

You may have heard that using wood ashes on your garden can help make the soil more fertile. Though ashes do contain significant amounts of potash, they contain little phosphate and no nitrogen. Most Kansas soils are naturally high in potash and do not need more. Also, wood ashes will raise the pH of our soils, often a drawback in Kansas where soils tend toward high pH anyway. Therefore, wood ashes add little benefit, and may harm, many Kansas soils. In most cases it is best to get rid of them.

## Winter Survival of Wheat

Conditions started out unusually cold throughout Kansas during most of November. Also, there has been little or no snow cover for most of this period. This means that soil temperatures have been colder than normal. Will this make some wheat fields susceptible to winter die-off?

### Factors to consider

The following are some of the factors to consider when evaluating the outlook for winter survival of wheat:

#### **How well has the wheat cold hardened?**

When temperatures through fall and early winter gradually get colder, that helps wheat plants develop good winterhardiness. When temperatures remain unusually warm late into the fall (which can lead to excessive vegetative growth) then suddenly drop into the low teens, plants are less likely to have had time to cold harden properly and will be more susceptible to winterkill. This fall, temperatures generally fell gradually. It did not go from unusually warm with strong plant growth to bitterly cold in a single day. As a result, the wheat should be adequately cold hardened in most cases.

#### **How well developed is the root system?**

Good top growth of wheat doesn't necessarily indicate good root development. Poor root development is a concern where conditions have been dry. Where wheat plants have a good crown root system and two or more tillers, they will tolerate the cold better. If plants are poorly developed going into winter, with very few secondary roots and no tillers, they will be more susceptible to winterkill or desiccation, especially when soils remain dry. Poor development of secondary roots may not be readily apparent unless the plants are pulled up and examined. If plants are poorly developed, it may be due to dry soils, poor seed-to-soil contact, very low pH, insect damage, or other causes.

#### **How cold is the soil at the crown level?**

This depends on snow cover and moisture levels in the soil. Winterkill is possible if soil temperatures at the crown level (about one-half to one inch deep if the wheat was planted at the correct depth) fall into the single digits. If there is at least an inch of snow on the ground, the wheat will be protected and soil temperatures will usually remain above the critical level. Also, if the soil has good moisture, it's possible that soil temperatures at the crown level may not reach the critical level even in the absence of snow cover. But if the soil is dry and there is no snow cover, there may be the potential for winterkill, especially on exposed slopes or terrace tops, depending on the condition of the plants.

#### **Is the crown well protected by soil?**

If wheat is planted at the correct depth, about 1.5 to 2 inches deep, and in good contact with the soil, the crown should be well protected by the soil from the effects of cold temperatures. If the wheat seed was planted too shallowly, then the crown will have developed too close to the soil

### Symptoms of winter survival problems

If plants are killed outright by cold temperatures, they won't green up next spring. But if they are only damaged, it might take them a while to die. They will green up and then slowly go "backwards" and eventually die. There are enough nutrients in the crown to allow the plants to green up, but the winter injury causes vascular damage so that nutrients that are left cannot move, or root rot diseases move in and kill the plants. This slow death is probably the most common result of winter injury on wheat.

Direct cold injury is not the only source of winter injury. Under dry soil conditions, wheat plants may suffer from desiccation. This can kill or weaken plants, and is actually a more common problem than direct cold injury.

## Care of Gift Fruit Baskets

A holiday tradition is to give gifts of fruits and nuts (along with other products). Usually these are placed in an attractive basket, wrapped with cellophane covering, and brought (or shipped) to your house. It is important that the fruit contained inside is kept in cool conditions to maintain its quality for as long as possible. Thus, it is wise to disassemble the fruit basket as soon as you receive it and place the fruit in refrigerated storage.

If all the products in the basket are tree fruits (such as apples, pears, oranges or grapefruit), you can place the entire basket in a cool place- around 40 degrees F for best results. If the basket contains any bananas or other tropical fruits (with the exception of citrus) remove those fruits and store them separately. About 3-4 weeks is about as long as you can expect to store these fruits without some shriveling and loss of crispness.

# K-State Crop Pest Management School

December 11, 2014, 8:00am to 5:00pm

Wm. Carpenter 4-H Building  
Scott City, KS



**Credits Available:**

**Commercial Applicators: 1 Core Hour & 7 for 1A**  
**Certified Crop Advisors: 8 Pest Management Credits**  
**(Credits Applied For)**

Cost: \$30 per person  
Lunch will be provided

**Register by Friday, December 5th at:**

**Online Registration: [www.scott.ksu.edu](http://www.scott.ksu.edu) & click on**



**Scott Co Ext. Office: (620) 872-2930 or**

**Wichita Co Ext. Office: (620) 375-2724**

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## The 2014 Farm Bill: Making the Decision

January 27, 2015, 8:00am to 12:00pm

Wm. Carpenter 4-H Building  
Scott City, KS

**Registration Deadline: January 23, 2015**

**Fee: \$25.00**

To Register:

Scott County Extension

John Beckman

620.872.2930 or [jbeckman@ksu.edu](mailto:jbeckman@ksu.edu)

or

Wichita County Extension

Allen Baker

620.375.2724 or [abaker@ksu.edu](mailto:abaker@ksu.edu)





# 4-H News



## 2014 4-H Achievement Banquet



**Gold Award:** Kelsie Conard



**Clover Award:** Abigail Meese,  
Trevor Biermann



**2014 Club Leaders:**  
Traci Ridder—Marienthal Meadowlarks;  
Julie Conard—Pleasant Valley Boosters;  
Tori Koehn—Lydia Jayhawkers.



**Emerald Award:** Johanna Ridder, Abigail Ridder, Melissa Fierro, Maya Dorantes, Tristen Porter, Cody Meese, Justin Perry, Lane Wells.



**First Year Members:** Lincoln Lamaster, Adam Biermann, Clara Koehn, Lynette Loya-Magadan, Fernando Magadan, Anna Simons, Logan Malone, Charlie Malone.



**Silver Award:** Amelia Koehn, Madison Gould, Waylon West, Jesse Gardner, DW Baker, Myles Conard.



### Join the Club!



# Wichita County Extension December 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Fair Board Mtg. 12:00pm @ Ext. Office	9 Exec. Board Mtg. 8:30am @ Ext. Office	10 Allen Agronomy Update Cimarron	11 Allen Crop Pest School Scott City	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 4-H Council Mtg. 12:00pm @ Ext. Office	23	24	25 <i>Merry Christmas!!</i>	26	27
Extension Office Closed						
28	29	30	31	<i>Knowledge forLife</i>		
Extension Office Closed						

# January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  Extension Office Closed	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Allen Area KAP Screening Cimarron	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 SWYLF Dodge City
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Cover Your Acers-Oberlin						
25	26	27 Allen Farm Bill Training Scott City	28	29	30	31

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# 4-H Calendar

## January

1 Enrollment Deadline  
8 Area KAP Screening  
17SWYLF-Dodge City

## March

6 Beef Weigh & Tag @ CSA Cattle  
29Sheep and Goat Weigh & Tag

## June

9-12 4-H Camp at Rock Springs