

NRCS research project opportunity and pruning

Well temperatures are changing. Trees are turning color. Fall is in the air and harvest of fall crops is well under way.



Darl Henson
Coffey County
Extension Agent

Soon crops will be in the bin letting farmers know the success of their past season efforts. And in short order they will be planning for next year.

With that said, Kansas farmers have an opportunity to join other U.S. producers in participating in a \$4 million conservation innovation grant aimed at improving the efficiency of fertilizer and seed management in cotton, corn, soybean and wheat production.

The research, made possible by a \$4 million USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service award to the Data-Intensive Farm Management Project, aims to develop and deploy a data-intensive crop management system based on on-farm precision experiments. Farmers will use these tools to conduct site-specific, data-based evaluations of the economic and environmental impacts of site-specific nitrogen, phosphorus and seed rate management strategies.

Though Kansas is not one of the states specifically targeted by the project, cotton, corn, soybean and wheat producers from any state can apply to participate.

The funding is provided through On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials, a component of the Conservation Innovation Grants program first authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill.

On-Farm Trials awardees work with NRCS and farmers and ranchers to implement innovative practices and systems that have not yet been widely adopted by producers. Awardees are required to evaluate the conservation and economic outcomes from these practices and systems, which provides partners, producers and NRCS critical information to inform conservation work in the future.

More information and contact information is available on the project's web page - <https://publish.illinois.edu.data-intensive-farm-management/>.

While there may be some temptation for home landscapers to shape up trees and shrubs this fall, Kansas State University horticulture experts say that work is best left to next spring.

This time of year woody plants move sugars and other materials from the leaves to storage places in the woody portions of the plant just prior to the leaves falling. So for the health of the plant, it's best to maximize those stored energy reserves, so pruning trees and shrubs right now is not advised.

Research work indicates woody plants are less likely to be winter-hardy when pruned in the fall between August and November.

Light pruning and removing dead wood are fine this time of year, but folks may want to delay severe pruning until

spring. "Light" pruning means 10 percent or less of the plant is removed (not counting dead wood).

Landscapers should also keep in mind that even light pruning of spring-blooming shrubs such as lilac and forsythia will reduce flowers next season. It is normally recommended that spring-bloomers be pruned after flowering occurs.

Shrubs often differ in how severely they can be cut back. For example, junipers do not break buds from within the plant and should be trimmed lightly if you want the shrub to keep its full shape. Otherwise, overgrown junipers should be totally removed.

On the other hand, there are certain shrubs that can be pruned back severely in the spring. The most severe type of pruning is called rejuvenation, and may be used on multi-stem shrubs that have become too large and with too many branches to justify saving the younger canes. Some of the shrubs that fall into this category include spirea, forsythia, pyracantha, ninebark, Russian almond, sweet mock orange, shrub roses and flowering quince.

Main thing to remember is that spring is the correct time for severe pruning. Not now.

Couple of quick reminders for area producers: This year's annual K-State Swine Day, scheduled Nov. 18-19, will be held online only, but they're promising a program chock-full of research presentations just like year's past.

Registration is now available at KSUSwine.org and is free through Nov. 11. More information also is available online from the K-State Department of Animal Sciences and Industry.

The online program includes a series of 15- to 20-minute presentations beginning at 10 a.m. each day and focusing on swine nutrition, feed safety and feed processing.

The agenda includes:
* Nov. 18: Feeding sows immediately before farrowing; Minimizing disruption in nutrient intake after weaning; Preparing for a world without zinc oxide; Current K-State swine nutrition and management research; Understanding and influencing pig body weight variation.

* Nov. 19: Feed Safety, including feed mill biosecurity and research findings; Feed processing, including sessions on corn particle size, pellet quality and amino acid digestibility.

For more information, contact Lois Schreiner at (785) 532-1267 or lschrein@ksu.edu.

Local farmers and ranchers are also reminded a second round of financial assistance due to the COVID-19 pandemic is available. Sign-up for CFAP-2 through USDA is now underway. For those who signed up for the first round of payments this sign-up will be simplified as much of the information needed is already on file with the FSA office. For more information or assistance with getting signed up, contact the Coffey County USDA Service Center FSA office at (620) 364-2313 ext. 2.

Fall harvest is under way, so everyone needs to watch out on county roads! Farmers - be safe out there!

Connecting Kansas

After a few days of blaming our service provider for a shaky internet connection, I recently discovered the real problem was the decade-old Wi-Fi router when it quit transmitting signal in the middle of a workday. I uttered a few choice words as I pulled out my phone and checked a local store for a viable replacement.



Greg Doering
Kansas Farm
Bureau

I decided to go ahead and replace the modem as well since it predated the router. I found a decently priced combo, drove across town and back, then said a few more words while getting the whole thing set up. All told, it took just under an hour to complete.

It was a minor inconvenience, and I had access to several workarounds if I wasn't able to buy a new router immediately. I could have taken the old-fashioned route of connecting a computer directly to the modem like our caveman ancestors did. I also could have used my phone as a hotspot.

In any event, the mild annoyance I encountered pales in comparison to the struggle of thousands of Kansans who lack any connectivity options at all. The pandemic has put a spotlight on just how

important fast, reliable internet is for the state to prosper.

Education, health care, business, entertainment and work are all possible uses in connected households. Kansas will spend \$50 million in CARES Act funding to hook up an estimated 70,000 households to broadband, defined as download speeds of 25 megabits per second and upload speeds of 3 megabits per second.

It's a step in the right direction, but the 67 projects across the state will only scratch the surface of connecting every home, business, school and health facility to modern technology. The hard part in any network is always making the last-mile delivery.

In cities where density means a mile of fiber optic cable can give a company access to tens of thousands of potential customers or a wireless transceiver can cover multiple blocks, private companies will readily invest.

But on the outskirts of town where there are fewer people and greater distances, the potential profit goes down. It evaporates entirely when you start looking at farms and ranches across Kansas that are miles apart. There's a reason only 4 percent of urban Americans lack access to broadband while nearly 40 percent of their rural counterparts are searching for signal.

The goal of connecting Kansas may seem too hard, too expensive, too slow, but I can guarantee you it's worth all the, toil, trouble and time. Imagine where our state would be today if large swaths of the countryside lacked access to electricity or phone service.

Broadband internet is the latest in a string of societal advances that will require a mix of solutions for everyone to gain access. While it's tempting to just dust off the template used to light up every home in America for broadband, that misses the reality of the current technology.

Fiber, wireless or beams from space are all options for increasing connectivity. Government action, like tax incentives, grants or regulation also has a role to play.

Broadband access isn't a silver bullet for rural revitalization, but it will open up tremendous opportunities for farmers, ranchers and others who want to live in wide-open spaces but still feel connected to the rest of the world.

Someday I hope everyone gets to experience the joy of hurriedly replacing a bad router in the middle of a workday. The sooner the better.

— "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.

Linsey directs donation to Blue Ribbon 4-H Club

LEBO — Coffey County farmer Beverly Linsey, directed \$2,500 to Blue Ribbon 4-H Club in Coffey County through America's Farmers Grow Communities, sponsored by the Bayer Fund.

Celebrating its 10th year, America's Farmers Grow Communities partners with farmers to support nonprofit

organizations strengthening rural communities. The program offers farmers the chance to direct a \$2,500 donation to a nonprofit of their choice. It has awarded more than \$33 million to over 8,000 nonprofits across rural America.

"A better life is Bayer's goal. Farmers are invested in

their communities, they root for their neighbors, and they know when and where there is a need," said Al Mitchell, Vice President Corporate Engagement, Bayer. "Farmers are one of America's best resources, which is why Grow Communities partners with them to direct donations to the organizations they are

passionate about and that make a positive impact and a better life in communities."

To learn more about the America's Farmers Grow Communities program, visit www.AmericasFarmers.com or follow on Facebook at [facebook.com/AmericasFarmers](https://www.facebook.com/AmericasFarmers).

Champions named at Kansas Junior Livestock Show

HUTCHINSON — Winning exhibitors at the 88th Kansas Junior Livestock Show (KJLS) earned premiums, while others were presented scholarships for excelling

academically, in community service and in 4-H/FFA.

The largest youth livestock show in Kansas featured 661 showmen from 93 counties, who exhibited 1,395 head

of livestock, including 108 market steers, 269 breeding heifers, 153 market hogs, 174 breeding gilts, 214 market lambs, 201 breeding ewes, 140 market goats and 136 commercial doe kids. The statewide event was held Oct. 2-4 at the Kansas State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson.

The reserve champion in senior swine showmanship was Kyanna Lankton of LeRoy. Other results for Coffey County participants include:

- Wyatt Dorr, Lebo, third in class 11 - Dark AOB Gilt; fourth in class 1 - Berkshire Gilt.
- Andrew Foltz, Waverly, seventh in class 8 - Meat Goat.
- Heidi Foltz, Waverly, sixth in class 8 - Meat Goat.
- Lydia Foltz, Waverly, third in class 5 - Meat Goat.
- Kyanna Lankton, LeRoy, first in class 16 - Dark Cross Market Barrow, Reserve Champion Spot Market Barrow.
- Maggie Seaman, Waverly, 10th in class 8 - Commercial Ewe Lamb, ninth in class 4 - Commercial Ewe Lamb.
- Jara Thorp, Burlington, Champion Simmental Market Steer.
- Aubriana Vannocker, Lebo, 12th in class 10 - Black-face Market Lamb, third in class 15 - Commercial Gilt, fourth in class 6 - Duroc Gilt.

KFB virtual annual meeting open to all FB members

MANHATTAN — Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) will host its 102nd annual meeting Dec. 3-5 with a mix of virtual presentations, while voting delegates will gather at 10 sites across the state to conduct business and set policy for 2021.

"Annual meeting is where we celebrate the outstanding work of Kansas farmers and ranchers over the past year and set the agenda for the new year," Kansas Farm Bureau President Rich Felts says. "This year the mission is the same, but the format will be different to protect the health and wellbeing of our members and their communities."

The virtual sessions on Thursday and Friday will allow all Farm Bureau members in Kansas to participate for free, including Vance Crowe's keynote address to lead off the meeting Thursday morning. Members can view the annual meeting agenda and register for individual sessions at www.kfb.org/annualmeeting.

Crowe, the former director of millennial engagement for Monsanto, will share his

thoughts on how farmers and ranchers can thrive in a post-COVID-19 world.

Other events on opening day include workshops, a virtual tradeshow, a panel discussion on all facets of Farm Bureau, an opportunity for members to network and a fireside chat between U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts and Kansas State University's Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh.

On Friday Andrew Walmsley will update attendees on American Farm Bureau activities in Washington, D.C., followed by an open discussion of resolutions. Additional workshops and networking sessions are planned before the day ends with a townhall featuring newly elected federal officials.

Saturday voting delegates will debate and adopt policy statements for 2021, elect the KFB president and board members from even-numbered Farm Bureau districts. Delegates will attend in-person at one of the 10 hubs corresponding to their district. Attendance on Saturday is limited to KFB staff and voting delegates.

PUBLIC AUCTION

12:30 p.m. • Sunday, Oct. 18
390 Missouri Rd., Iola

From Yates Center go 13.5 miles east on Highway 54 to 400th St., turn south and go 2 miles to the sale site. From Iola go 5 miles west on Highway 54 to 400th St., turn south and go 2 miles to sale site.

Off road parking day of sale weather permitting.

Seller: Debbie Burk

Selling due to the death of my husband Junior Burk

Shop Equipment, Tractor & Equipment, Trailers & Truck, Guns, Sporting & Outdoor, Antiques & Collectables, Lawn & Garden, Misc.

For complete sale bill and pictures check web sites:
kansasauctions.net/boone or kansasauctioneers.com

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*NOTE: Must be 18 years of age and a resident of Kansas to buy guns at this auction.

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