

River Valley District

K-STATE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION NEWS

rivervalley.ksu.edu

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WATERING LANDSCAPE PLANTS BEFORE WINTER

We are having another dry fall. Watering now is important to prevent moisture stress through the winter months. A good, deep watering with moisture reaching at least a foot down into the soil is much better than several light sprinklings that just wet the top portions of the soil. A deep watering will help ensure that the majority of roots have access to water. Soil should be wet at least 12 inches deep. Use a metal rod, wooden dowel, electric fence post turned upside down or something similar to check depth. Dry soil is much harder to push through than wet.

Although all perennial plants will benefit from moist soils before winter, it is especially important to water newly planted trees and shrubs due to limited root systems. Even trees and shrubs planted within the last 2 to 3 years are more sensitive to drought than a well-established plant. Evergreens are also more at risk because moisture is lost from the foliage during the winter months.

Trees or shrubs planted within the last year can be watered inexpensively with a 5-gallon bucket. Drill a small hole (1/8") in the side of the bucket near the bottom. Fill the bucket and let the water dribble out slowly next to the tree. Be sure to keep the bucket a few feet back from the trunk of the tree. Refill the bucket once more, and you have applied 10 gallons. Very large transplanted trees and trees that were transplanted two to three years ago will require more water.

A perforated soaker hose is a good way to water a newly established bed or foundation plantings. However, soaker hoses are notorious for non-uniform watering. In other words, you often receive too much water from one part of the hose and not enough from another. Hooking both the beginning and the end of the soaker hose to a Y-adapter helps equalize the pressure and therefore provide a more uniform watering. It is also helpful if the Y-adapter has shut off valves so the volume of flow can be controlled. Too high a flow rate can allow water to run off rather than soak in.

On larger trees, the soaker hose can circle the trunk at a distance within the dripline of the tree but at least ½ the distance to the dripline. The dripline of the tree is outermost reach of the branches. On smaller trees, you may circle the tree several times so that only soil which has tree roots will be watered.

If using a soaker hose, note the time watering was started. Check frequently to determine the amount of time it takes for water to reach 12 inches. From then on, you can water "by the clock." Use a kitchen oven timer so you remember to move the hose or shut off the faucet. If you are seeing surface runoff, reduce the flow, or build a berm with at least a 4-foot diameter around the base of the tree to allow the water to percolate down through the soil, instead of spreading out.

If we have a normal winter, watering once before spring should be adequate. However, if the winter is warm and dry, watering once a month may be needed. If you have any questions feel free to stop by or contact me in the in the Washington office, 785-325-2121 or khatesohl@ksu.edu.

FALL YARD CLEAN-UP



It's that time of year again when leaves are falling from deciduous trees. Now is a good time to stop and think about options for handling the leaf litter. Although a scattering of leaves won't harm the lawn, the excessive cover of leaves for an extended period will prevent sunlight from reaching the turfgrass causing the grass to be unable to make the carbohydrates needed to survive the winter.

There are other options for dealing with the fallen leaves rather than bagging them up and putting them out for the trash collector. The first option is composting. Composting is a great way to handle the refuse. The compost can then be added to your vegetable garden and/or flowerbeds, to increase the amount of organic material in your soil.

Another option is to mow the leaves with a mulching mower and let shredded leaves filter into the turf canopy. (A side-discharge mower also will work, but it won't shred the leaves as thoroughly). This method will be most effective if you do it often enough that leaf litter doesn't become too thick. Be sure to mow while you can still see grass peeking through the leaves.

While you are working to keep the leaves from piling up on your turf, you can also decide what needs to be cleaned-up in your flowerbeds.

Fall is traditionally a time for cleaning up flowerbeds. Normally, we recommend cutting down dead stems to help control insect and disease problems. With herbaceous perennials that have been pest free, you might want to consider leaving some to provide winter interest to your garden. For example, ornamental grasses can be attractive even during the winter months. Those near structures like your house, or sheds should be cut to the ground because when they get dry they could become a fire hazard. Perennials with evergreen or semi-evergreen foliage can provide color and structure.

Foliage can be left for a few other reasons as well. For instance, foliage left on semi-hardy plants will act as mulch to protect from harsh winter winds and help to ensure overwintering of the plant's crowns. Another reason to leave some foliage in your beds is because of wildlife. Birds will eat seeds from the perennials, and others will use the plants as shelter. This fall take the time to look around your yard and see what you can do to prepare your landscape for the winter months. If you have any questions feel free to stop by or contact me in the in the Washington office, 785-325-2121 or khatesohl@ksu.edu.

TUCKING YOUR LAWMOWER IN FOR THE WINTER

If you are done mowing for the year, be sure to service your mower before putting it away for the winter. Make sure you drain the gas tank of gasoline-powered engines or use a gasoline stabilizer. Untreated gasoline can become thick and gummy. If your equipment has a battery, you will want to clean the battery terminals. They sometimes corrode throughout the season; a wire-bristle brush is a good tool for this. The battery can then be removed or connected to a battery maintainer to keep it charged over the winter. Be sure to keep the battery in a protected location for the winter (a cool basement works best).

Now is also a great time to sharpen the mower blades so they'll be ready for next spring. Sharpening rotary mower blades is fairly straightforward. The following steps will guide you through the process.

1. Check the blade for major damage. If you can't fix it, the blade will need to be replaced.
2. Remove grass and debris from the blade with a moist cloth. Be sure to dry the blade before sharpening the cutting edge.
3. Remove nicks from the cutting edge by using a grinding wheel or hand-file.
4. If using a grinding wheel, match the existing edge angle to the wheel.
5. Grind or file until the edge is 1/32 inch. Sharpening the blade to a razors edge may result in the edge folding over during the next season causing a poor cut.
6. When using a grinding wheel, avoid overheating the blade as this might warp it.
7. Clean the blade with solvent or oil for optimum winter storage. Don't use water because it will promote rust.

Following these tips this winter will keep your mower in great shape and save you time next spring. If you have any questions feel free to stop by or contact me in the Washington office, 785-325-2121 or khatesohl@ksu.edu.

SAVE THE DATE

LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY

FOR MIDWESTERN FARM WOMEN

A Succession Planning Series

Jan. 21, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, Feb. 11 2025
5:00pm-8:00pm: Dinner is provided

Join Us At One Of The
Following Locations

Clay County Event Center
213 S 12th St
Clay Center, KS 67432
4-H Building, NCK Fairgrounds
901 O Street
Belleville, KS 66935

Be watching for
more information

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FREE MEDICATION DISPOSAL BAGS AVAILABLE

With the upcoming holidays, do not be the drug dealer for your visiting family and friends. Over 115 Americans die daily from opioid overdose. With the opioid epidemic growing, properly disposing of unused and expired medications is important.

All four offices in the River Valley Extension District have medication disposal bags available free to the public. We have several different sizes for your use.

The disposal is as easy as 1 – 2 – 3:

1. Open the pouch and place unused medication inside.
2. Fill the pouch halfway with warm water and wait 30 seconds.
3. Seal the pouch tightly, gently shake, and dispose of the pouch in the trash.

(Follow the directions on the package.)

Help stop the opioid epidemic and dispose of your unused and expired medications today. Stop by a River Valley Extension District office to start cleaning out your medicine cabinet.

For more information on the opioid epidemic and medication disposal bags, please visit our website at <https://www.rivervalley.k-state.edu/foods-health-nutrition/health.html> or call your local River Valley Extension Office.

2025 MEDICARE PART D PLANS

Kansas has seventeen Medicare Part D Prescription Drug plans available for 2025 in Kansas. Plan Premiums range from \$0.00 to \$113.90 in 2025. There is one new Prescription Drug Plan for 2025 and six Prescription Drug Plans which are discontinuing coverage in 2025. All members of discontinuing plans will be cross-walked or automatically moved to a different Part D Prescription Drug Plan. Though you are cross walked into a different Part D Plan, this does not necessarily mean it is the best plan option. For those whose plans are discontinuing, you should have received notification about which plan you are being moved to in 2025.

*Please note that while Clear Spring has two plans available in 2025, both continue to be under sanction from CMS. Both plans are unavailable for new enrollment. However, current members in a Clear Spring Plan can stay in it for 2025.

New 2025 Plans

S5726-020 Blue MedicareRx Essentials (PDP)

S6946-087 Clear Spring Health Premier Rx (PDP)**

Discontinued/Non-Renewing Plans

S5601-049 Aetna Medicare SilverScript Plus (PDP)

S5601-199 Aetna Medicare SilverScript SmartSaver (PDP)

S5820-023 UnitedHealthcare AARP Medicare Rx Preferred from UHC (PDP)

S7126-023 Mutual of Omaha Rx Mutual of Omaha Rx Plus (PDP)

S7126-093 Mutual of Omaha Rx Mutual of Omaha Rx Premier (PDP)

S7126-126 Mutual of Omaha Rx Mutual of Omaha Rx Essential (PDP)

**Reference to any specific commercial products, process, service, manufacturer, or company does not constitute its endorsement or recommendation.*

APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE TO SHOP FOR PART D MEDICARE PLANS

Time is running out to shop and enroll in a 2025 Medicare Part D Plan. The open enrollment period for Medicare 2025 Part D Prescription Drug Plans began October 15th and will continue until December 7th. A limited number of counseling appointments are available at the four offices in the River Valley Extension District. Lessen the stress in your life by shopping and enrolling now. Please call the:

Belleville Office 785-527-5084

Clay Center Office 785-632-5335

Concordia Office 785-243-8185

Washington Office 785-325-2121

SOCIAL SECURITY COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA)

The Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for individuals receiving Social Security benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments will have an increase of 2.5% for 2025. COLA notices will be mailed to individuals throughout the month of December to inform recipients of their amounts for 2025. Your family member or friend may receive their notice before or after you. This is the first year that beneficiaries will receive the improved and newly designed COLA notice. This new design makes it easier for customers to find pertinent information.

SSA asks that you wait until January to contact them if you have not received your COLA notification letter. Most beneficiaries with a [mysocialsecurity.gov](https://www.socialsecurity.gov) account before November 20, 2024, may be able to see their COLA notification letter online in early December. The increase will take effect in payments received in January 2025 for Social Security beneficiaries. Increased SSI payments will begin with the December 31, 2024, payment.

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS

Some Medicare Advantage plans will be ceasing coverage in Kansas and specifically our area. For those currently in these plans, you will receive (if you have not already) a letter regarding the plan termination as of December 31st and your options for Medicare coverage.

Option 1 – You will automatically be transitioned to Original Medicare as of January 1st, 2025. However, it is typically recommended that you have a Part D Drug Plan and Medicare Supplement to accompany Original Medicare.

- For a Part D Drug Plan to start January 1st, you must select it during Open Enrollment (October 15th – December 7th).
- The Medicare Advantage termination letter is your ticket to receive a Guaranteed Issue Right to a Medicare Supplement without undergoing medical underwriting.

Option 2 – During Open Enrollment (October 15th – December 7th), these Medicare beneficiaries may choose to switch to a different Medicare Advantage plan that is available in their area.

Understanding your options in Medicare can be confusing. If you have any questions, please contact Jordan Schuette and Monica Thayer, Extension Agents and Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas (SHICK) Counselors, at any of our offices - Belleville at 785-527-5084, Clay Center at 785-632-5335, Concordia at 785-243-5335, and Washington at 785-325-2121.

TAI CHI IN CLAY CENTER

Tai chi is often described as "meditation in motion". Tai chi differs from other types of exercise as movements are usually circular and never forced, the muscles are relaxed rather than tensed, the joints are not fully extended or bent, and connective tissues are not stretched. You can get started even if you aren't in top shape or the best of health in this low-impact, slow-motion exercise.

Tai chi can be easily adapted for anyone, but as always, talk to your primary care physician before starting any form of exercise. Although tai chi is slow and gentle and doesn't leave you breathless, it addresses the key components of fitness — muscle strength, flexibility, balance, and, to a lesser degree, aerobic conditioning.

The Senior Center at Apollo Towers in Clay Center will be putting together a Tai Chi class in the near future. This is a class for all ages. If you would be interested, please see Pam Lilley in the Nutrition Office at Apollo Towers (M-F 8:30am – 2pm) or call her at 785-632-5767.

Source: The Health Benefits of Tai Chi – <https://www.health.harvard.edu/staying-healthy/the-health-benefits-of-tai-chi>

Living Well Wednesday Virtual Learning Series The second Wednesday in

November and December from 12:10 – 1 pm
This webinar series is hosted by K-State Research and Extension Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) agents and specialists. Register once, anytime, to receive a link to both webinars.

Recording of previous webinars and more information can be found at:
<https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/fcs/livingwellwed/livewellwed.html>
Register: bit.ly/3zvWWGQ



Nov. 13 – Fall Proof Your Life: A Guide to Better Balance

Discover practical tips and exercises to improve your balance, reduce risk of falls, and live a more independent and active life.

Dec. 11 – Simplify Your Space: A Guide to Downsizing and Decluttering

Learn practical strategies for sorting through your belongings, make decisions about what to keep, and create a more organized and peaceful living environment.

ALL RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT

OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11th IN HONOR OF
VETERANS DAY**

**and NOVEMBER 28th and 29th TO OBSERVE
THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**

PLAN YOUR HOLIDAY SPENDING

The holidays are quickly approaching, which means some people are planning their Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, and Cyber Monday shopping, what meals to prepare, travel arrangements, and more. People strategize the stores and websites, check out deals, schedule times, and create a plan of action, but if they aren't careful, all the purchases can wreak havoc on their finances. A budget or spending plan can help.

Unfortunately, the word budget is often taboo. When you mention a budget, people think they are restricting. So, let's use the term spending plan instead. Doesn't that sound much more pleasant? A spending plan does exactly what its title says. It gives you a plan of where you can spend your money. Creating and sticking to a spending plan can help alleviate financial stress during and after the holidays.

If you already have a spending plan, great! Refer to it when deciding how much money is available for purchasing gifts, food, travel expenses, and any other items during the holiday season and year-round. If you don't have a spending plan, now is the perfect time to start! Your spending plan is a map for your money. It includes your projected amounts of income and expenses with adjustments made for changes, such as a little extra for holiday spending.

When using or creating a spending plan for holiday purchases, you need to consider how much money you want to spend and how much money you have available to spend as these can be two very different amounts. Make sure you are not spending more than you can truly afford. Once you have chosen an amount you can spend, decide who you are purchasing gifts for and what additional food or items you want to purchase.

It is beneficial to make a list of everyone you want to purchase for, ideas for gifts, and the total amount you will spend on each person as different people may warrant different spending allowances. You may also use this list when in stores or on websites to compare pricing and track what you have purchased.

Holidays can get hectic. Try to minimize your stress by being financially capable. To get started on creating an overall spending plan, refer to K-State Research and Extension's "Essential Living Skills: Money Management" (S134G, <https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/S134G.pdf>). Contact Monica Thayer, Family Resource Management Extension Agent, at 785-527-5084 for more assistance.

CENTRAL KANSAS BEEF SUMMIT PROGRAM TO BE HELD IN ELLSWORTH, KANSAS

Make plans to attend the Central Kansas Beef Summit on Tuesday, November 19th, 2024, from 9:00am – 3:15pm. The event will be highlighted by a presentation on managing cold stress in livestock and calving preparedness. This presentation will be given by KSU Beef Extension Veterinarian AJ Tarpoff.

In addition to Dr. Tarpoff, the program will offer breakout sessions where attendees can pick and choose which topics apply to them. This year's breakout topics will cover fence law & leases, livestock risk protection insurance, strategies for managing woody encroachment, trees and brush, and feed testing techniques.

The day will conclude with a presentation by the staff at the Kansas Agriculture Mediation Services.

The summit will be held at the Ellsworth Health & Recreation Center located at 221 West Douglas Ave, Ellsworth KS 67439. This program will be a collaboration among numerous K-State Research and Extension districts and will give producers a better chance to not only hear from industry leaders, but to also take part in conversation with one another.

Make sure to RSVP by November 12th to reserve a meal. The cost to attend is \$10 or late registration will be \$15 at the door.

For more information on the event, or to register, please call Livestock Production Agent Kaitlyn Nelson at 785-325-2121. This event has been generously sponsored by several agribusinesses in collaboration with K-State Research and Extension Districts, Central KS, Cottonwood, Midway, River Valley, Phillips/Rooks, and Post Rock. We look forward to you joining us!

"Gab in the Cab" Agricultural Podcast Launches First Episode

The River Valley Extension Agriculture & Natural Resources Program released the first episode of a brand-new podcast called "Gab in the Cab" on October 14th, hosted by Extension Agent Luke Byers. In this first episode, Luke discusses the payments that farmers in the River Valley District can expect to receive in October from the Farm Bill's Title I Commodity Programs. The episode can be found at www.youtube.com/@rivervalleyextensiondistri4100/podcasts

A “BUMPER CROP” OF ARC-CO PAYMENTS ARE COMING TO RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT PRODUCERS

It’s hard to say that there’s a silver lining to low commodity prices, but if there is one, it’s that low prices have kicked in much higher payments for Title I commodity programs like the County Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC-CO) program. Last October, the only producers to receive ARC-CO payments were Cloud County producers who had base acres in dryland soybeans. This year, Clay, Cloud, Republic, and Washington Counties are all slated to receive ARC-CO payments to producers with base acres in several commodities. Cloud and Republic County producers will receive payments for corn, soybeans, wheat, and milo. Clay and Washington County producers will receive payments for corn, soybeans, and milo.

For corn and soybeans, each of the four counties have payments calculated for either dryland or irrigated base acres. For wheat, Clay and Cloud Counties’ payments are calculated for either dryland or irrigated, but in Republic and Washington Counties, dryland and irrigated base acres are combined for payment calculations. Likewise, for milo, Cloud and Republic Counties’ payments are calculated for either dryland or irrigated, but in Clay and Washington Counties, dryland and irrigated base acres are combined for payment calculations. Except for Cloud County irrigated wheat, only dryland and combined acres received ARC-CO payments.

Recall that 2024 ARC-CO payments are issued for crops harvested in 2023. ARC-CO payments are delayed a year because FSA uses the crop’s marketing year’s price data to calculate the Marketing Year Average (MYA) price. The 2023-24 marketing year for corn, soybeans, and milo runs from September 1st, 2023, to August 31st, 2024. Winter wheat follows a different schedule; its 2023-24 marketing year runs from June 1st, 2023, to May 31st, 2024.

To review, ARC-CO Actual Revenue is calculated as the Market Year Average (MYA) price multiplied by the MYA Yield. In dryland corn in Republic County, for example, MYA Price was listed at \$4.55/bu. and MYA Yield was listed at 68.3 bu./ac., leading to an Actual Revenue of \$310.95/ac. The Olympic Average (OA) Price and OA Yield, used to calculate Benchmark Revenue, came in at \$3.98/bu. and 146.2 bu./ac., respectively. As you can see, while Actual MYA Price was higher than the OA Price, Actual MYA Yield was much lower. This was the trend for many of the commodities receiving payments against base acres in the River Valley District.

Benchmark Revenue, using the OA Price and OA Yield in the Republic County dryland corn example, came out to \$581.68/ac. (\$3.98/bu. * 146.2 bu./ac.) However, the ARC-CO rules stipulate that the level of per acre revenue that an enrollee is guaranteed cannot be above 86% of the Benchmark Revenue; this comes out to \$500.24/ac. (86% * \$581.68/ac.) Also, the maximum allowable amount that ARC-CO can pay producers is 10% of the Benchmark Revenue value, which is \$58.17/ac. (10% * \$581.68/ac.)

The amount that ARC-CO actually pays out is the smaller of two options: (1) the difference between Guaranteed Revenue (\$500.24/ac.) and Actual Revenue (\$310.95/ac.), which is \$189.29/ac., or (2) the maximum allowable amount, which is \$58.17/ac. Because the maximum allowable amount is smaller, that is the amount that Republic County dryland corn growers enrolled in ARC-CO are scheduled to receive for 85% of their base acres registered to soybeans. So, if you had 100 base acres in Republic County registered to dryland corn with the Farm Service Agency, you would receive \$58.17 against 85 of those acres, or \$4,944.45 (\$58.17/ac. * 85 ac.)

A full breakdown of commodities receiving ARC-CO payments for the 2023-2024 marketing year is listed in the table below. Further details on payment calculations can be explored using the online tool from AgManager.info at www.agmanager.info/ag-policy/arc-co-actual-payment-maps. If you have any questions about enrollment in ARC/PLC, expected indemnities, or would like to learn more about what to expect from the ARC/PLC programs in the upcoming Farm Bill, please contact Luke Byers, River Valley Extension District Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent at (785) 632-5335 or by email at lsbyers@ksu.edu.

2023-2024 ARC-CO Payments (\$/ac)

	Clay	Cloud	Republic	Washington
Corn (dryland)	\$55.22	\$55.33	\$58.17	\$13.27
Soybeans (dryland)	\$43.96	\$44.19	\$49.09	\$40.57
Wheat (dryland)	\$0.00	\$27.40	N/A	N/A
Wheat (irrigated)	\$0.00	\$28.06	N/A	N/A
Wheat (all)	N/A	N/A	\$27.81	\$0.00
Milo (dryland)	N/A	\$42.82	\$45.39	N/A
Milo (all)	\$46.42	N/A	N/A	\$44.23

MEMORIES OVER MATERIALS

As a mother of young children, we have lots of toys. While toys serve an important purpose in child development through playing, the number of toys can be overwhelming. This holiday season, consider adding to the memories instead of the materials of your loved ones.

Everywhere you look and listen, there are commercials and advertisements of the hottest toys, electronics, and even vehicles to purchase for a loved one. Even though retailers want us to believe that the upcoming holidays are all about materials, giving the gift of time and memories to those you love this year may be just what is needed.

Consider giving an experience that is tailored to that individual or family and will create memories. Purchase admission to a local zoo, amusement park, movie theater, or museum. Find lessons to further a person's skills, such as horseback riding, a musical instrument, or painting. For those real adventurous people in your life, send them skydiving or ziplining. The possibilities are endless.

Being a parent of young children, I understand that having something to open may be important, so I am not saying to scrap every gift. Consider following the adage of "Something they want, something they need, something they wear, and something they read."

For educational information on family resources, including budgeting, child development, relationships, and more, contact Monica Thayer, River Valley Extension District Family Resource Extension Agent, at 785-527-5084 and mthayer@ksu.edu.

SHORT-TERM SUPPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

K-State beef cattle experts explain how protein supplementation supports rumen health when forage quality is low.

Many people start their day by taking a vitamin to help fill the gaps in their diet. Similarly, when forage quality declines in the fall, beef producers turn to protein supplements for the cow herd to help optimize performance, said the experts at Kansas State University's Beef Cattle Institute.

K-State veterinarian Bob Larson and K-State beef cattle nutritionist Phillip Lancaster addressed a listener question about how to best manage native grass pastures for the next six weeks when the ability to deliver protein is limited to once per week. "When forage quality declines, the recommendation is to offer a protein supplement to the herd a

few times a week. That allows the cow to recycle the protein through the rumen for overall health," Larson said. Recycling, he said, refers to how cattle use nitrogen in protein sources, which means they get more than one day's benefit from the supplementation.

The producer who submitted the question said he was offering the herd four pounds of distiller's grains once a week and wanted to know if that was enough to get cattle by for six weeks. "Research has shown that there is a little bit of a drop off in forage digestibility for cattle that are offered protein supplementation once a week compared to every other day or every few days, but it is still better than giving them no supplementation," Lancaster said. For this scenario, Lancaster recommended the producer increase the protein supplementation to eight pounds per week for six weeks.

"From a protein perspective, you've got to give the animal excess protein that they can recycle," Lancaster said. If cattle don't have enough protein in their diet and are eating lower quality forages, it can cause them to lose body condition, he added. Another way to monitor the health of the cattle is to look at the feces, Larson said. "If the cow piles (feces) are tall and dry, then you probably need to increase either the amount or frequency of the protein supplementation," he said.

To hear the full discussion, listen to [Cattle Chat](#)

PRESERVING GARDEN TOOLS

Do your gardening tools have wooden handles? Are the handles slowly deteriorating? Storing tools in a protected location can slow the deterioration process, but normal use will still expose the tools to the elements.

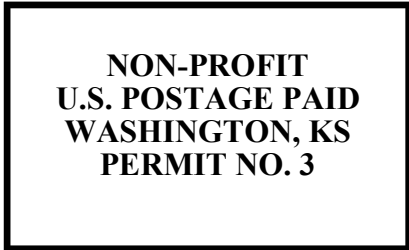
The end of the gardening season is a great time to clean up and protect wooden tool handles so they will last for years to come. Over time the wooden handles start to break down from weathering. Weathering raises the grain of the wood, resulting in splinters. A light sanding can smooth out the handle; then add a light application of a wood preservative like linseed oil or polyurethane to protect the wood.



Be sure to clean off any dirt residue from the metal parts of the tool. Once the dirt is cleaned off, apply a light coat of oil to prevent the metal from rusting. Good gardening tools are expensive, but a few minutes of care after the season is over will keep your tools looking new for years to come. If you have any questions feel free to stop by or contact me in the Washington office, 785-325-2121 or khatesohl@ksu.edu.

River Valley Extension District

Washington Office
214 C. Street, Courthouse
Washington, KS 66968-1928



Address Service Requested

RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT
“2024 UP-COMING MEETINGS & EVENTS”

DATE	TIME	PROGRAM	LOCATION
Oct.15-Dec. 7		Medicare Part D Open Enrollment	Appointments available in all RVED Offices
Nov. 11		Veterans Day	RVED Offices Closed
Nov. 13	12:10-1pm	Living Well Wednesday-Fall Proof Your Life	Virtual Series- See Page 4 for more information
Nov. 18	3pm or 5:30pm	Holiday Wreath Decorating Party	Belleville-Kasl Tree Farm, 1149 Talmo Lane
Nov. 19	9am-3:15pm	Central Kansas Beef Summit	Ellsworth-221 Douglas Avenue
Nov. 28 & 29		Thanksgiving Holiday	RVED Offices Closed
Dec. 5	6pm	Managing Predation	Washington- KSDS East Building, 124 7th St.
Dec. 11	12:10-1pm	Living Well Wednesday-Simplify Your Space	Virtual Series-See Page 4 for more information
Dec.12	TBD	Farm and Ranch Risk Wrangling	Beloit- TBD
Jan. 21, 28, Feb. 4, 11	5-8pm	Leaving a Lasting Legacy	Belleville- 4-H Building, 901 O Street and Clay Center-Clay County Event Center, 213 S. 12th