



April 2024

### 4-H & Youth Development

#### Welcome New 4-H Youth & Development Agent Madeline Wallace!

Madeline (Maddy) grew up in San Antonio, Texas before moving to Stillwater, Oklahoma to complete her bachelor and master's degrees at Oklahoma State University. She was heavily involved in her High School FFA Program including showing steers and pigs, as well as trying any and every contest team she could. Maddy now lives in Wichita and loves spending time with her dog, a miniature dachshund named Basil.

Maddy is looking forward to getting to know the community and those who live in Butler County. She is excited to help grow the 4-H and Youth Development programs to continue Butler County's tradition of excellence. Maddy is wildly passionate about helping youth develop into the greatest version of themselves. It was her own high school agriscience teacher who helped her realize her passion for education and youth development, so she recognizes the positive impact a mentor can have on children. Whether that is an extension agent, 4-H volunteer, or other impactful adult in a child's life, the impact of a mentor is immeasurable. One of the best parts about working with youth is the ability to watch them master and become confident in a new skill. Maddy cannot wait to get to know each member of Butler County 4-H and deliver relevant programming to the community.

"Working as a 4-H Youth Development Agent has been my dream job since I began my graduate program. I am excited to finally be able to achieve that dream by serving Butler County."

### Horticulture Planting Asparagus

Asparagus is a popular perennial vegetable plant throughout the state of Kansas. It is generally the first fresh vegetable harvest of the spring which makes a welcome addition to the garden. If you plan to start a new asparagus bed it should be planted from March 15th to April 15th, so if you plan to plant it this spring, it's time to get started. In reality, we probably should have started to prepare the planting area in the fall by killing any weeds or foliage that was growing there but we can still be successful. Now that the soil has thawed it is the perfect time to prepare the site. Before tilling add compost, rotted manure, or any good organic material source to the bed along with 4 to 5 pounds of a 5-10-5 fertilizer per 1000 square feet. Till all the amendments into the soil and work them in well. Asparagus will come as one-year-old crowns that you will plant in a trench as wide as your garden spade and approximately 8 inches deep. If you plan to plant more than one row, space the trenches approximately four feet apart. Place the crowns in the bottom of the trenches and cover them with about 3 inches of soil. Over the growing season, you will slowly fill the trench over several weeks. The crowns should not be covered all at once. Keep the weeds under control and water the crowns regularly to help them establish. Popular varieties include Jersey Giant, Jersey King, Jersey Knight, Jersey Supreme, and Purple Passion. Let them grow this year and start harvesting next spring.

## Family Consumer Sciences

### *Screens, Screens EVERYWHERE!*

Televisions, laptops, tablets, electronic bulletin boards and – of course – cell phones. Screens seem to surround us and can easily consume our lives. The questions we must ask ourselves are: Are we controlling them, or are they controlling us? How are screens impacting our relationship? How are they impacting the developing brains of our children?

"What we know about positive childhood development," Dr. Bradford Wiles, "is that screens are not very helpful. Often, they are simply a mindless activity that doesn't grow children's brains or their social-emotional or physical development."

There is an "opportunity cost" associated with screen time. If you're engaging in screen time, you're not doing things that can help you with skill building in multiple domains – physical, mental and social. Technology, itself, is not the problem. The problem is when you use that tool to isolate yourself or your children. Here are some things to keep in mind:

**Families with very young children** - Screen time should be severely limited for those under age 2 – ideally they should have none. Screen time is not nearly as stimulating as interaction with other humans. Spend time playing with young children instead.

**Families with children ages 6-17** - Establish "screen free" zones in the home, including bedrooms. It may seem like punishment – and difficult to enforce – but the payoffs are great.

**Whole family screen time** - Decide in advance what you will view as a family. Avoid watching TV during meals or leaving the TV on for background noise. In addition, avoid texting or talking on a phone during meals or when outside with your family.

So take a moment, look at the screens around you, and challenge yourself to be more aware and more in control of how much you scroll.

## Agriculture

### Native Pasture Burning

It is the time of year when we start planning for native pasture burning. Here are a few things you can do to help prepare and reduce the risk of unintended outcomes.

- 1) Know the Butler County Burn Regulations! You can find those at: <https://www.bucoks.com/203/Controlled-Burning>. You are required to make notifications and that contact information is found in this link. I also recommend notifying your neighbors.
- 2) The Kansas Smoke Management Plan goes into effect on April 1 – know the plan! [www.ksfire.org](http://www.ksfire.org)
- 3) Develop a burn plan; identify your goals, know the weather and wind forecast ([www.weather.gov/ict/fire](http://www.weather.gov/ict/fire)), review safety requirements, determine equipment and manpower needs and know your emergency contacts. Also be aware of roads and major highways and use caution not to lay smoke across them. Evaluate the ground to make sure it's solid enough to hold a pickup and sprayer. Due to recent rains, the ground is a bit soft. If the ground is not solid, think of what will happen when you put fire trucks on there if the fire should escape. Good planning is critical when planning and executing a controlled burn.

### Contact us:

Phone: (316) 321-9660

Web: [Butler.K-State.Edu](http://Butler.K-State.Edu)

Address: 206 N Griffith St, Ste. El Dorado, KS 67042

Facebook: @ksrebutlerco

Twitter: @ButlerExtension

See our full Newsletter at <https://www.butler.k-state.edu/newsletter.html>

For KSRE publications and information,  
visit [www.ksre.ksu.edu](http://www.ksre.ksu.edu)

Join Us For Our 2024 Quarterly Extension Connection

# Mug Mingle



**Grab a mug and mingle with your local**

**Butler County Extension Staff**

Friday, April 12th from 7:45-9:00 a.m.

Save the Dates : June 28th and October 11th

**WELCOME TO  
OUR TEAM  
MADELINE  
(MADDY)  
WALLACE**

**4-H YOUTH AND  
DEVELOPMENT AGENT**

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County



# WALK KANSAS

AN 8-WEEK HEALTHY LIFESTYLE CHALLENGE!

March 31 - May 25, 2024

**Gather your team of six or go solo this year.**

Register online at [WalkKansas.org](https://WalkKansas.org) or by contacting the Butler County K-State Research and Extension office.

**Registration Opens March 4th!**

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Walk Kansas



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Butler County

Bonnie Brewer, FCS Agent

316-321-9660

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Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service  
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# ANNUAL BUTLER COUNTY *Lawn & Garden Show*

## GROW & BLOOM IN BUTLER



*Master Gardeners of Butler Co., KS*

**FREE**  
*Admission*

- Children's Activities
- Concessions
- Exhibits & Vendors
- Plants for sale!
- Professional Presentations
- Seed Swap
- Soil test service available!
- & More!

**DOOR  
PRIZES!**

Event Details



Saturday, April 13th, 9 AM - 5 PM  
Sunday, April 14th, 11 AM - 4 PM

Butler County Community/4-H Building  
206 N. Griffith, El Dorado

K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means of communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, and American Sign Language) may be requested by contacting the event contact Calla Edwards two weeks prior to the start of the event March 30th, 2024 at 316-321-9660 or callae@ksu.edu. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information, will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request. K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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