

## Making a Difference

Frontier District Supporters,

The Frontier Extension District staff have been busy, but in different ways, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Face-to-face meetings continue to be very limited, but our staff members have found new ways to provide educational experiences. Zoom meetings, Facebook live and short videos are just a few of the ways the Frontier District has used to provide information to the public.

Our offices are open for business, please stop by to ask questions, pick up literature, drop off soil tests or visit with the staff about your issues. We encourage everyone to wear a mask and continue to social distance. Stay Safe!

Sincerely,  
Rod

Rod Schaub  
Frontier Extension District Interim Director  
[rschaub@ksu.edu](mailto:rschaub@ksu.edu)

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### We can be reached via phone, email or social media:

**Garnett Office**  
**785-448-6826**

**Chelsea Richmond**  
*Nutrition, Food Safety & Health*  
[crichmon@ksu.edu](mailto:crichmon@ksu.edu)

**Ryan Schaub**  
*Horticulture*  
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**Ottawa Office**  
**785-229-3520**

**Darren Hibdon**  
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Visit our Frontier District Website



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**On-Farm Visits**



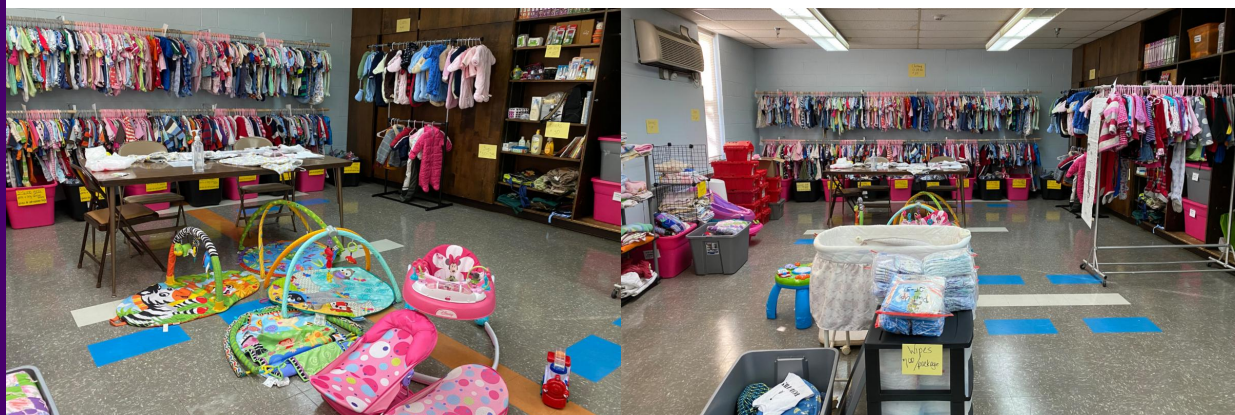
One thing that has not changed during this time of uncertainty caused by COVID-19, is the ability to work with producers and landowners one-on-one. With respect for social distancing, wearing masks, and not riding in vehicles or equipment together, we have still been able to meet individually with producers. Individual consultation is a great way to access the questions a producer might have and then provide solid research based answers to them.

All through the pandemic, our agents continued to meet one-on-one. Even during a time of remote working due to office closure, this option was still available. These farm visits varied greatly in the areas of crops, forage, livestock and horticulture. Our three agricultural agents located in Garnett- Ryan Schaub, Ottawa- Darren Hibdon and Lyndon- Rod Schaub, each made a number of farm and home visits to address issues. When needed, a Kansas State University Extension Specialist was involved as well to help with an issue.

If you have an issue you would like to discuss and do not feel comfortable in public, please give us a call so that the appropriate agent can set a time to come and visit with you.

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## Hand Me Up Program



Over the last several months, the Frontier District has been working alongside the Anderson County Interagency Council to re-open the Hand Me Up program. The Hand Me Up program is designed to serve families in Anderson County who are pregnant or who have children.

By participating in the program, families earn reward bucks by keeping appointments for eye exams, physicals, and prenatal appointments and by utilizing pharmacy services, getting immunizations, and participating in educational classes.



In return, participants redeem their reward bucks by purchasing items for their children who are between birth and five years of age from a community store. Items available to purchase include clothing, diapers, wipes, toys, hygiene products, etc.

The program is open to any individual or family who lives in Anderson County and who wants to utilize community resources to help meet the needs of their children and family. The Hand Me Up program is located at the First United Methodist Church in Garnett. Due to concerns with regard to COVID-19, the store is open on Monday evenings by appointment.

Families who are interested in the program or who want to schedule an appointment to shop the Hand Me Up store can contact the Frontier District's office in Garnett at 785.448.6826. Additional questions about the program can also be directed to Rebecca McFarland at [rmfarla@ksu.edu](mailto:rmfarla@ksu.edu) or to Chelsea Richmond at [crichmon@ksu.edu](mailto:crichmon@ksu.edu).

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## Master Gardener



Back in August, the Frontier Extension District started promoting the Master Gardener Program that went virtual this fall. The training courses were weekly Zoom meetings starting on September 3rd and ended on December 17th.

Among the 15 weekly zoom trainings, we also held three in-person trainings, one in each extension office to help reinforce what was being taught to the trainees.

The Frontier Extension District was fortunate to have 6 participants graduate. Those 6 graduates are:

Carter Pilch  
Tom Wood  
Robert Ward  
Pam Whitmer  
Judy Ryman  
Michael Riblett

These six trainees learned all about gardening including: botany, soils, turf-grass, annual and perennial flowers, landscape maintenance, woody ornamentals, vegetable production, entomology and pesticides, wildlife management, fruit production, diseases and landscape design. This is a very thorough class that doesn't just give you a lot of information to help you have a more productive garden or take care of the plants in your flower beds, but also gives you resources to find more information to help you or your neighbors in the future.

The second part of the Master Gardener program involves volunteer hours. We ask the EMG's to give back to their communities and to help promote the Master Gardener program. An example of volunteer's hours would be; working in demonstration flower beds, completing a library presentation, attending bimonthly meetings, helping at the KOFO Home and Garden Show, etc.

If you have questions regarding the Master Gardener Program, please do not hesitate to call Horticulture Agent Ryan Schaub at 785.448.6826. It was decided that the 2021 Master Gardener Training will be held virtually as well, with the state leaders to determine how we move forward after that.

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### **@!&\*#! It, Shocked Again**



Electric fencing is something that is used on many farms and ranches, but often, after the first use or failure, it is found wadded up in the corner of the barn and considered a waste of time. While that may of been the case years ago, with the development of low impedance chargers and a better understanding of grounding systems, a good electric fence can be a great asset around the farm.

Electric fencing is the easiest fence to install. It's inexpensive and it can be easily moved if not located where you want it. Electric fences are mental barriers, not physical barriers for all classes of livestock in grazing situations. When livestock are trained properly and the fence is working the way it was designed to (a minimum of 5000 volts on the fence), they will touch the fence once and then leave it alone. Electric fencing can be used all year while grazing, whether it be Spring, Summer, Fall or Winter. It can be especially useful in droughty conditions when alternative forages are used for grazing.

This summer, I put together a series of nine videos explaining the use of electric fencing. The series discussed the three main parts of electric fence, 1) the charger, 2) the ground system, and 3) the fence. These videos were uploaded onto the Frontier District website and the district's YouTube channel. I also, as part of a statewide extension agent training, did an hour long Zoom on building and using electric fence. My presentation was shared with several agents across the state.

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### **Wrapping Up 2020 Fairs**



As of August 15, 2020, the Frontier Extension District wrapped up their fourth and final fair of the season. 4-H Extension Agent, Janae McNally, along with 4-H Program Assistants Jessica Flory and Tammy Egidy, worked hard over the Spring and Summer months with their local fair boards and local county health and medical management teams to help ensure a safe environment for 4-H members. They helped create a safe environment that allowed 4-H members to have their work evaluated and put on display.

This was a large achievement as 4-H members work year-round to create and fine tune their projects. While each fair was different in many ways from years past, everyone was excited to get the opportunity to have a fair! Some of the new changes that were implemented last summer were a great addition to the fair and will be implemented in future fairs to come.

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### Vesicular Stomatitis Virus



Horse and cattle owners across our state and district had to deal with a virus many had never seen. It had been over 30 years since it was last seen in Eastern Kansas. No, the virus was not COVID-19, it was “Vesicular Stomatitis Virus” (VSV).

This disease causes “Foot and Mouth” like symptoms in livestock, especially horses. Because of these symptoms, VSV is a disease that must be reported to the state veterinarian. Infected animals and all other livestock on that farm must be quarantined for 14 days from the last diagnoses of disease on that farm. Due to the quarantine length and timing of the outbreak, VSV could have a huge impact on farm economics. The virus occurred at a time that yearling cattle were being removed from pastures and sent to feedlots.

To notify our local producers, Rod Schaub, Frontier District Livestock Agent, made a video that was put on the district website as well as on the Frontier District YouTube channel. The video highlighted VSV concerns at a time when face-to-face public meetings were very limited. In addition, VSV prevention, symptoms, and ways of transmission were discussed on local radio station programming.

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## Virtual 4-H Officer Training



This past Fall, the Frontier District 4-H club officers were able to participate in their first ever virtual 4-H officers training! The officers joined several other counties from the Eastern side of the state to deliver a quality training for all club officers as they moved forward into the next 4-H year. The training had over 250 youth who participated and gained information on how to conduct their newly elected office that they would hold. It was a great way to connect with others from across the area who share the same office and ask questions while also gaining creative ideas for what other clubs are doing.

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### Horticulture Videos



With COVID-19 making face-to-face meetings difficult this year, Horticulture Agent Ryan Schaub went virtual and made short videos to help make information available to homeowners. Ryan made videos on Container Gardening, Lawn Care: Mowing Height, Lawn Care: Weed Control, Taking soil Temperatures, Plants and Storm Damage, Bagworms, and Lawn Mower Winterization. All of these videos were added to the Frontier Extension District Facebook page as well as to the Frontier Extension District's YouTube channel to be viewed by the public.

Moving into 2021, and with COVID-19 still limiting in person meetings/trainings; Ryan is planning on doing several other videos. Tentative topics include: Flower Care for Valentine's Day, Pruning Trees, Tracking and Trapping Moles, Mulching Garden plants and Trees, Pruning shrubs, and planting bulbs. If you have any additional topics you think would be useful; please call Ryan at 785.448.6826.

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### SNAP-ED Program



**Supplemental  
Nutrition  
Assistance  
Program**

**Putting Healthy Food  
Within Reach**


Even with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Frontier District continues to find ways to provide nutrition education through the Kansas SNAP-Ed program. The SNAP-Ed program is the education arm of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and is provided at no cost to Kansas families with limited resources.

With the help of two nutrition educators, Anita Sobba and Kris Wallace, the Frontier District provides educational programming at eligible sites (local schools, senior centers, low-income housing sites, etc.) across the district to youth, adult, and senior audiences. Classes include discussing meal planning, how to save money at the grocery store, preparing nutritious meals and snacks, being physically active, food safety, and more.

Over the past year, the district's SNAP-Ed program has also worked with local food pantries and distribution sites to share recipes and food safety information, taught students in local schools proper handwashing technique using a high-speed method, and continued to serve on local coalitions, including the Franklin County Food Policy Council.

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## **Listen to Frontier Extension District Agents on KOFO**



**Frontier Extension District  
Radio Recordings**

**or listen LIVE**

**Family & Consumer Sciences**   **4-H Youth Development**  
Mondays - 6:40 a.m.                      Wednesdays - 6:40 a.m.

**Agriculture**  
Fridays - 6:40 a.m.

Frontier Extension District agents share research-based, unbiased educational information related to agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer sciences, 4-H youth development, and community development three days a week on KOFO 103.7 FM or 1220 AM.

You can also catch up on radio programs you may have missed or would like to listen to again by visiting our Frontier District website at the following link: [Frontier Extension District Radio Recordings](#)



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K-State Research and Extension specialists and district agents are subject matter experts in numerous aspects of life that have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. They provide unbiased, fact-based

help on a variety of subjects free of charge.

You can click on the following link for a wealth of information to help you navigate through this challenging time: [COVID-19 Extension Resource Page](#)

## **CARES Act Stimulus Checks**

Taxpayers earning up to \$75,000 a year will get \$1,200 for each adult (\$2,400 for married couples who file jointly and earn up to \$150,000), plus \$500 for each child under the age of 17, if they meet all other eligibility requirements.

Many have already received these payments. If you have not, the IRS has added a 'Get My Payment' tool on their website at <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments>. Here taxpayers can check their payment status, confirm payment type and enter bank account information if the IRS does not have your direct deposit information on file.

## **Hero Relief Program**

The "Hero Relief Program" expands DCF's child care assistance subsidies for families and provides financial support directly to child care providers. The new program specifically targets health care workers, first responders and other essential workers. Beginning Monday, April 20, child care subsidies will be available to essential workers who financially qualify.

The list includes: • Health care workers • First responders • Food and agriculture workers • Judicial branch (essential services) • National Guard • Child and adult protective service specialists • Child care providers caring for children of eligible workers listed above.

For more information and for instructions on how to apply, visit [KSHeroRelief.com](http://KSHeroRelief.com)

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