



K-STATE
Research and Extension
Master Gardener

What's Growing On...

The latest news from the
Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardeners

MARCH 2017 | 104 S. Brayman St., Paola, KS 66071 | 913-294-4306 | www.maraisdescygn.es.ksu.edu

Calendar

MARCH

- 8—6:30 pm “An Introduction to Composting,” with Nancy Kalman, LaCygne Library
- 14—9:30 am Advisory Board Meeting, Paola Office
- 14—6:30 pm “Beginning Beekeeping,” with Sharon Dobesh, Paola Office
- 29—10:00 am “Invasives—Plants Gone Wild,” with Lynn Loughary, Paola Office

APRIL

- 1—10:00 am EMG booth at Touch-A-Truck, Family Center Farm & Home, Paola
- 4—6:30 pm General Meeting & Potluck Dinner, Paola Office
- 5-7—EMG bus trip to Missouri and Arkansas
- 11—9:30 am Advisory Board Meeting, Paola Office
- 12—6:30 pm “Native Medicinal Prairie Plants,” with Kelly Kindscher, Paola Office
- 22—9:00 am Spring Garden Symposium, Paola Office
- 27-29—Spring Plant Sale, Family Center Farm & Home (new location)

Spring Is Just Around the Corner

Spring Clean-Up at the Courthouse Gardens will be held Wednesday, March 22, starting at 10:00 am. There will be leaves to rake, roses to prune, bushes to trim, grasses to cut back and winter debris to remove.

Please bring pruners, loppers, and rakes, and don't forget your gloves and something to carry debris in.

See you then! —*Phyllis Benedict, Courthouse Gardens Project*

Spring Garden Symposium: “Growing by Design”

The Spring Garden Symposium is just around the corner! The committee, chaired by Susan Thompson and Jeannie Trail, has put together a great lineup of speakers. More information about the program can be found on the flyer included at the end of the newsletter (see page 8). The \$25 registration fee includes lunch and any printed materials from the speakers. Space is limited so please make sure to sign up early. You can register for the event by filling out the registration portion of the flyer.

The newsletter deadline is the 20th of the month preceding publication. Please send news and photos to mwesterhold@ksu.edu.

Spring Plant Sale! It's time to sign up!

The Spring Plant Sale is right around the corner! This year's sale will be held on April 27, 28, and 29 in the Family Center Farm & Home parking lot (808 Baptiste Drive, Paola)—a new location this year.

While the Plant Sale is a fundraiser, its true benefit is as an excellent opportunity to reach out and educate the public. Plus EMGs can earn volunteer hours and socialize with each other.

Three local vendors have signed contracts to supply consignment

plants. Of special note: our vendors confirm that all the plants have been grown without harmful pesticides.

Please make sure to wear your EMG shirt and name tag during your shift. **Helpers are needed for set-up Thursday morning, staffing all three days, and clean up Saturday at noon.** We will need at least four people per shift. Please sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b44aaae22a0fc1-20171>. For more information contact Mary Miller or Lenora Larson.

Be sure to follow the Marais des Cygnes EMGs on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mdcemg

March Classes You'll Want to Attend

Compost 101

By Nancy Kalman

March 8 | 6:30 pm | 1.5 hours AT credit | La Cygne Library

Backyard composting is a great way for homeowners to utilize the resources that they have in their own backyards. Composting allows gardeners to keep things like grass clippings, shredded leaves, garden debris and much more out of landfills and turn them into something that they can reuse in the garden. Due to its value in improving garden soil, compost is often called "black gold." No matter how large or small your garden is or what type of soil you have, you can benefit from making your own compost!

Nancy Kalman is a longtime Marais des Cygnes Extension District Master Gardener who grows pesticide-free fruits and vegetables for sale at her property, "Pickings and Pumpkins," in Spring Hill, KS. She has been making compost for more than 30 years. During the program we will look at what compost is, how to make it, where to place a compost pile, and how to use the finished product. We will also take a quick look at vermicomposting and compost tea.

Please register online at www.lacygnelibrary.org. For more information, please contact the Marais des Cygnes Extension District – Paola Office at 913-294-4306.

Beginning Beekeeping Workshop

By Sharon Dobesh

March 14 | 6:30 pm | 2 hours AT credit | Paola Office

A biscuit straight from the oven, smothered in butter, and drizzled with honey might just be the perfect biscuit. One could argue it's the honey that puts it over the top. In addition to producing delicious honey, honeybees are a valuable asset to US food production. Bees contribute more than \$10 billion to U.S. farm value by pollinating crops and producing more than \$200 million in honey annually, according to a University of Nebraska – Lincoln Extension report.

Beekeeping can be a wonderful hobby or possibly even a business venture. However, starting and



maintaining bee colonies is not always simple. Join us for a Beginning Beekeeping Workshop featuring Sharon Dobesh, K-State Research and Extension Honey Bee Specialist. Dobesh will present information for both new and beginning beekeepers. She will also have beekeeping equipment available for participants to look at.

The workshop will be held on March 14th at 6:30pm at the Marais des Cygnes Extension District Office located at 104 S. Brayman, Paola, KS 66071. Please register online at mdcextension.eventbrite.com or by calling our offices in Paola (913-294-4306) or Mound City (913-795-2829) by March 10th.

Invasives – Plants Gone Wild

By Lynn Loughary

March 29 | 10:00 am | 2 hours AT credit | Paola Office

Lynn Loughary, Wyandotte County Horticulture Extension Agent, will discuss invasive non-native plants that consume wildlife habitat and compete with crops. Participants will learn the characteristics of the most common invasive plants in our area and why their management or control is important.

Help Needed at Touch-A-Truck

We are currently working on planning our 2nd Annual Touch-A-Truck event. This year's event will be held on April 1st from 10 am – 2 pm at Family Center Farm & Home in Paola. Last year over 1250 people attended the event. During the 2016 event the EMGs had an informational booth and handed out Seeds for Kids packets. We would like for the EMGs to have a booth at this year's event and once again hand out Seeds for Kids packets. We will also have a "Create Your Own Bird Seed" station where the kids can select and mix ingredients and take home their own bag of birdseed.

There will be two shifts during the event 9:30 – 12:00 and 12:00 – 2:30. We will have the table, supplies, etc. at the Family Center for you to use. We would like to have at least three people per shift.

Please email Megan if you are available and willing to help with this event. It is a great way to promote the Seeds for Kids program, upcoming EMG events, and the Master Gardener program as a whole.



Hotline

It's hard to believe, but its nearly time for the 2017 Master Gardener Hotline. This year's Hotline will be held in the Paola Extension Office on Thursday mornings from 9:00 am to Noon. The first shift will be on April 6th.

Go ahead and sign up now so you can make sure to complete your required 9 hours of Hotline time this year. You can sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b44aae22a0fc1-2017>.

We also have new business cards promoting the Hotline, so please feel free to pick some up at the office and pass them out.

2017 Garden Tour

The committee is working hard to get ready for the fall garden tour. They are still looking for tour sponsors. If you know of any business or individuals that might be interested in helping sponsor the tour, please send their contact information to Sue Burns at sombohmker@hotmail.com. If you are interested in helping with the tour please contact Betsy Hasselquist or Jan Thompson. Or contact the garden liaison if you are interested in working in a particular garden. The six gardens that will be featured on the tour are:

Woodgate Hill

Owned by: Chris Coffey & Chuck Michael
5280 W 263rd St, Louisburg, KS
Liaison: D Brown

Casa de la Mariposa (Butterfly Home)

Owned by: Tom & Sondra Dela Cruz
105 E Miami, Paola, KS
Liaison: Kathy Nicholson

Greens' Natural Creations

Owned by: Bob & Lynn Green
12071 K68 Highway, Louisburg, KS
Liaison: Pat Trachsel

Boston Berry Farm

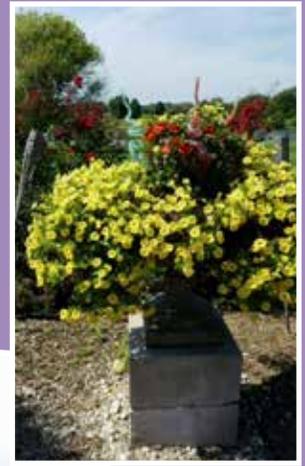
Owned by: John & Denise Johnson
27750 Normandy Rd, Louisburg, KS
Liaison: Debbie Kitchell

Spring Valley Farm

Owned by: Judy Moser & Ken O'Dell
11485 W 303rd St., Louisburg, KS
Liaison: Christine Staten

Long Lips Farms

Owned by: Lenora Larson
27995 Plum Creek Rd, Paola, KS
Liaison: Jeannie Trail & Mary Miller



EMG in the Spotlight: Rogene (Jeannie) McPherson, Class of: 2011

Jeannie McPherson is the offspring of a Nebraska farm family, and vegetable gardening was just one of the ways they lived off the land. She became an EMG because she had recently retired, wanted additional friends with similar interests and gardening was one of her main hobbies. "I enjoy learning something new, and this was the perfect venue for doing so."

The EMG project that helped her grow as a gardener was the Monarch Waystation at the Courthouse, her class project. "I learned a lot about butterfly identification and habits, but have oh so much more to learn."

Jeannie has many garden spots

and names each one using artifacts to enhance the garden theme. "My largest garden is mainly perennials and I call it my WE garden. I named it after my father (Wayne) and mother (Ethel) as they were instrumental in my love for nature."

Concerning gardening in Kansas, Jeannie suggests "Be brave, be curious and be patient," and "Use your natural resources as much as possible." On a farm loaded with rocks, trees, and rattlesnakes, she moves the rocks in the winter for landscaping, mulches with leaves, and co-mingles existing native wildflowers with annuals and perennials.

Her favorite plants are associated

with her grandmothers. Black-eyed susans and hens & chicks for Grandma K., and hollyhocks for Grandma S. But she also enjoys false indigo, crepe myrtle, roses, and coneflowers.

Jeannie has many interests outside of gardening including professional and leisure writing (she currently has a book in the publication process), sewing pillowcases and tying fleece blankets for foster children, rescue dogs and horses (come see her 1800 pound English Shire), and traveling rural areas in Kansas and adjacent states.

Jeannie is blessed to have her two sons and their families nearby.

2017 Master Gardener Awards Dinner

The MdC District Extension Recognition event was well attended by 45 members and their spouses/significant others. The emcee for the night was Megan Westerhold. The banquet opened with announcements about the upcoming Symposium, Garden Tour, and Bus Tour and a presentation by Andre Dight about the new Lakemary Therapeutic Ranch project.

First recognized was the Training Class of 2016 comprised of Carmen Anthony, Tom Dela Cruz, Andre Dight, Doris McElreath, and Rena Tedrow, and their mentors were thanked for their assistance. Then the Graduating Class of 2016 of Pam Bond, Mike Brown, Sondra Dela Cruz, Betsy Hasselquist, and Jan Thompson were given official membership certificates and wheelbarrow lapel pins.

Chet McLaughlin, Kathy Nicholson, and Rebecca Thorpe were awarded their 5 Year service Awards and Susan Thompson was awarded her 10 Year Service Award. Linda Hoffman was granted Emeritus MG status.

For her continued “outside” support Judy Moser was given the first annual Friend of the Master Gardener Award. Kathy Ayers was awarded the Seeds of Knowledge Award for 2016 for logging the most Advanced Training hours. Lenora Larson was awarded the Work Glove Award for 2016 for putting in the most volunteer hours.

Mike Brown was voted 2016 Rookie of the Year and past-Board chairman Michael Poss was voted the 2016 Master Gardener of the Year.

The 2016 Advisory Board of Michael Poss, Marty Sundquist (vice-chair), secretary Pat Trachsel, Laraine Crawford (treasurer), and members Eleanor Head, Shirley New, and Jan Putzier were thanked for their service.

The event closed after recognizing the new 2017 Advisory Board of Shirley New (chair), Debbie Kitchell (vice-chair), Pat Trachsel (secretary), Laraine Crawford (treasurer), and members Jane McLaughlin, Jan Putzier, and Rebecca Thorpe.



2016 Graduating Class: L to R: Harley Davidson, JoAnn Davidson, Jan Thompson, Sondra Dela Cruz, Betsy Hasselquist, and Mike Brown.



10 Years of Service: Susan Thompson



2016 Training Class: L to R: Rena Tedrow, Andre Dight, Doris McElreath, and Tom Dela Cruz.



5 Years of Service: L to R: Kathy Nicholson, Chet McLaughlin, and Becky Thorpe.

**L to R:
Work Glove Award:
Lenora Larson;
Master Gardener
of the Year:
Michael Poss; and
Rookie of the Year:
Mike Brown.**



Awards Dinner Survey

Thanks to everyone who attended the awards dinner this year. We would love to continue to increase participation each year. In an effort to get your input, Donna Cook and Susan Thompson have put together a short survey and would like your feedback. Please let us hear from you by completing the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7WMNXLW>.

Plant Sale Information

Mary Miller and Lenora Larson

Thank you to the fine folks who have already signed up to help with the Plant Sale! Megan will be posting the online sign-up. We will need helpers for set-up Thursday morning, staffing for the three days, and clean-up Saturday at noon. Fortunately, this event is just as popular with our Extension Master Gardeners as it is with the public, so we expect no problem getting enough help. Plus, you need to buy plants too! We'll again have beautiful bedding plants, native perennials, vegetable seedlings, butterfly host plants and exotic tropicals—some edible!

Mark your calendar for the 2017 Plant Sale (April 27, 28, 29), to be held this year in the Family Center Farm & Home parking lot. This is our best opportunity to provide one-on-one information to our shoppers while earning volunteer hours and socializing with each other.

Last month we featured Boston Berry Farms (who will also be on our Garden Tour). Next month's newsletter will feature Vinland Valley Nursery. Read more about Louisburg Nursery this month. Our ad and an article will appear in the April issue of *Kansas City Gardener* magazine.



Meet the Newbies: Rena Tedrow, Class of 2017

Rena Tedrow lives in LaCygne with her husband and two dogs. Her gardening began as “chores,” but as an adult she has always tried to raise some vegetables.

She learned of the EMG program through an arborist friend. Like so many of us, she contemplated the decision to join for years. “I needed to know as much as I could to be a successful gardener, and I thought this might be a good way to learn about flower gardening.”

Rena has learned many valuable lessons about gardening in Linn County Kansas. One of her first was—as a container gardener with four tomato plants—to experience the destructive nature of Horn Worms, leaving her with little more than “sticks.” Other lessons learned were:

- 1) No two years will be the same,
- 2) If things don't go well this year, there is always next year (must be a Chiefs fan...)
- 3) Everything is always trial and error.

Since jalapenos are Rena's favorite plant, it is only fitting that she plans to work on the Trial Garden as her primary community service project. In her non-gardening times, Rena enjoys reading and photography.

Louisburg Nursery

This will be the third year that Louisburg Nursery has supplied plants for our Master Gardener Plant Sale, and we are delighted to again have them as partners. Last year buyers went crazy over Myron's succulents and mixed flowers in containers. He promises to again have these favorites available as well as a full selection of bedding plants and even more vegetable seedlings.

Louisburg Nursery and Greenhouse offers a great selection of plants for the discriminating gardener. They grow their own annuals and perennials in 14 heated greenhouses located just west of Louisburg, Kansas.

The Nursery was started in 2001 by Myron and Vicki Schluter as a retail and wholesale operation selling annuals, perennials, tropicals, succulents and shrubs. The seasonal retail business is open to the public during the spring months of April, May and early June. In fall, the season runs from early September to late October. Myron and Vicki also own and operate Creekside Market located in Raymore Missouri. Creekside Market is a full line garden center selling everything from live plants, seed, garden maintenance products, tools, statuary, and water plants. This business is open from March 15 through October 31.

Louisburg Nursery & Greenhouse is located at 10860 W 271st St., Louisburg. Myron can be contacted at 913-206-1034 or myron@louisburgnursery.com.



Minutes of the February Board Meeting

The Marais des Cygnes master gardener February board meeting was called to order on February 14 at 9:35 by Shirley New at the Miami County extension office. Members in attendance were Shirley New, Laraine Crawford, Debbie Kitchell, Jane McLaughlin and Becky Thorpe. Also attending were Donna Cook, representing the awards dinner, and Jan Thompson representing the 2017 garden tour.

The minutes of the January 10 meeting had been posted on line, however there were insufficient responses to approve the minutes. Therefore, the board went on to approve the January minutes. Laraine moved to approve with Jane seconding. A verbal response of the quorum present approved the January minutes. Becky Thorpe was asked to take the minutes for February in the absence of Pat Trachsel.

Laraine Crawford gave the treasurer's report. There is an ending balance of \$20,061.33. Also presented were the financial events and activities from 2016. There will need to be an audit done at a future date to be announced. Becky moved to accept the treasurer's report and Laraine seconded. Treasurer's report was accepted by a voice vote.

Donna Cook next gave a report on the awards dinner. Susan and Donna agreed to plan the dinner for 2018 as well. Suggestions to

improve attendance were requested. Megan offered to send out an online survey to master gardeners. It was also mentioned that we might change the event to a week night possibly at the Town Square in Paola.

Megan gave the agent's report. The new master gardener shirt order will be submitted with a text only logo. Also reported by Megan that volunteer hours last year totaled 1,929 hours with a \$42,476.58 value. Touch-a-truck will be on April 1 with seeds-for-kids representing. Volunteers will be needed for this event. Hotline procedure will remain on Thursday mornings at the extension with the farmers market presence to be reevaluated. Advance training dates are still evolving and will be sent by e-mail until the complete list is prepared.

Project reports are as follows....Courthouse-none; Extension garden-none; Lakemary gardens-email report from Andre Dight. Board will request that Andre attend the March board meeting; Seeds for Kids-Jane reported on the need to evaluate number of entrants for events to anticipate seeds available; Trial gardens-Shirley emailed Ward Upham regarding our participation in the pepper and tomato projects and this was confirmed.

Committee reports are as follows: Jan Thompson present and reported that "save the date" cards are printed and

ready for distribution. There is a committee meeting on Feb. 16 at 6:30 . Mike Brown will place adds in the July, August and Sept. issues of the *KC Gardener* magazine. Liaisons will meet with garden owners in March. Descriptions of gardens have been requested and new signs have been printed. There was no symposium or plant sale report.

Old business.....Megan reported that information from Johnson and Douglas counties suggested that Emeritus status be based on the following: 1) Formal request in writing 2) 500 volunteer hours 3) 5 years as a master gardener. This would fall under Marais des Cygnes procedures and the board would have the right to approve or deny. Laraine moved and Debbie seconded this procedure. A voice vote approved the procedure.As Judy Moser was not able to attend the awards dinner, Laraine will deliver her special gift.....Marty S. continues to work on a MG schedule to help us stay on top of things.

New business.....The next general quarterly meeting and potluck will be on April 4. The April board meeting will be on the 11th at 9:30.

Jane moved to adjourn and Debbie seconded. All approved by voice vote at 10:39.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Becky Thorpe for Pat Trachsel.

Emeritus Procedure Revisited

Our bylaws currently define Emeritus status, but until now there was no clear policy or procedure for deciding if that honor would be awarded or not, and it had been left up to the discretion of the board. As a result, Emeritus status requests were put on hold last fall until a procedure could be established.

A committee looked at the procedures of surrounding EMG organizations and put together a proposed procedure.

The following procedure clarifies how Emeritus status will be awarded while still complying with our bylaws. It was approved by the board at the February board meeting.

As a result, requests for a change to Emeritus status can now resume and will follow the stated procedure.

Emeritus Status

1) For an EMG to be granted Emeritus status, the following must occur:

a. The EMG must request Emeritus status in a letter to the Marais des Cygnes Extension District Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent that coordinates the EMG program.

b. The EMG must have been an active member of the Marais des Cygnes District Extension Master Gardener program for a minimum of at least five years.

c. The EMG must have completed at least 500 volunteer service hours for the Marais des Cygnes District Extension Master Gardener program.

d. The EMG Advisory Board and the supervising Marais des

Cygnés District Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent must approve the change in status.

2) Emeritus status comes with all of the rights of active membership, except for the ability to hold an office. Emeritus EMGs are exempt from all mandatory service requirements and submitting work hours.

3) An Emeritus member who is once again able to participate as an active member may request a return to active status by writing to the EMG Advisory Board.

4) At their discretion, the EMG Advisory Board and the supervising Marais des Cygnes Extension District Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent may award Emeritus status if all four conditions are not met.



2017 Midwest Regional Hosta Convention News

Just announced! Early bird bonus for everyone who registers for the KC convention by April 1st.

Register by April 1st and receive a free copy of *Untangled - Straight Talk From Passionate Gardeners* (\$19.50 value), a recently published book by our hosting Johnson County K-State and Extension Master Gardeners. *Untangled* is a spiral-bound, 106-page collection of gardening tips, stories and secrets that will appeal to both novice and well-seasoned gardeners alike. Don't miss this

chance to reserve your free copy.

Already registered? Not to worry, this offer is retroactive. Everyone that registers by April 1st will have a book available for pickup at the convention check-in desk.

Not yet registered? Don't delay. Make your plans to follow the Yellow Brick Road to Hostas in the Land of Ahhhs....

The convention will be held June 22-24 in Lenexa, KS. Find more information at <http://www.2017kchoستاconvention.com>.

2017 Advisory Board

Chairman – Shirley New
Vice-Chairman – Debbie Kitchell
Secretary – Pat Trachsel
Treasurer – Laraine Crawford
Members at Large – Jan Putzier, Becky Thorpe, Jane McLaughlin

Growing by Design

Spring Gardening Symposium

April 22, 2017

9:00 am – 3:30 pm

Registration: 8:30 am

Marais des Cygnes Extension Office

104 S. Brayman

Paola, KS 66071

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Master Gardener
Marais des Cygnes District

The challenge and excitement associated with redesigning an existing garden or creating a new garden always makes landscape design a hot topic with gardeners. Join the Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardeners for 'Growing by Design' a spring gardening symposium that will feature presentations by local landscape authorities.

Keynote Address: *Gardens Go Native*



Gardeners have historically rejected native plants in favor of fancy hybrids. The movement towards using natives has come home, but many gardeners are still wary of inviting "weeds" into their landscapes. Ania will illustrate how these versatile plants can be used in different garden design styles and provide year round interest.

Attendees will learn how to fearlessly use natives in their own gardens. Ania Wiatr is an accomplished designer who serves as a Senior Gardener at Powell Gardens, where she takes care of the Perennial Garden.

Also Featuring

Designing an English Garden on the Kansas Prairie
Cynthia Gillis, Landscape Designer & Johnson County Extension Master Gardener, will discuss how it's not the plants that make an English garden; it's how they are used.

Hardscapes in the Landscape
Jack Carson, Johnson County Extension Master Gardener, will present how you can use hardscaping to enhance your garden design.

The Edible Landscape
Sherri Thomas, Johnson County Extension Master Gardener, will share how you can incorporate edibles into your ornamental garden.

Registration

This event is open to anyone, but pre-registration is required by April 14th. The \$25 registration fee includes a gourmet boxed lunch and all printed reference materials.

REGISTRATION FORM

Pre-registration REQUIRED by April 14.

To register, please send your check for \$25, made out to the MDC Extension Master Gardeners

Name

Email

City/State

Telephone

**Mail to the K-State Research and Extension, Marais des Cygnes District – Paola Office
104 S. Brayman Paola, KS 66071**



Beginning Beekeeping

March 14, 2017 at 6:30 pm

Marais des Cygnes Extension District Office
104 S. Brayman
Paola, KS 66071

A biscuit straight from the oven, smothered in butter, and drizzled with honey might just be the perfect biscuit. One could argue it's the honey that puts it over the top. In addition to producing delicious honey, honeybees are a valuable asset to US food production. According to the University of Nebraska – Lincoln Extension bees contribute more than \$10 billion to US farm value by pollinating crops and produce more than \$200 million in honey annually.

Beekeeping can be a wonderful hobby or possibly even a business venture. Starting and maintaining bee colonies is not always simple. Join us for this informational meeting to learn how you can get started!

About the Speaker

Sharon Dobesh is the K-State Research and Extension Honey Bee Specialist and the Associate Director of the Great Plains Diagnostic Network.

Do you have honeybees? Do you want to start beekeeping?

Join us to hear Sharon Dobesh, K-State Research and Extension Honey Bee Specialist, present information for new and beginning beekeepers. In addition to her presentation, she will also have a lot of beekeeping equipment available for participants to look at.

Please register online at mdcextension.eventbrite.com or by calling our offices in Paola (913-294-4306) or Mound City (913-795-2829) by March 10th.



Marais des Cygnes
District

Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact Megan Westerhold at 913-294-4306.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service
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