



Summer 2023

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Rolling Prairie Extension Upcoming Events

June

28 Food Preservation Workshop—Oswego Community Center, 1.00-4:00 pm, Registration Due 6/23, 203 North Street, Oswego.

July

4 Independence Day—Offices Closed

19-22 Elk County 4-H/FFA Fair—Howard

26-29 Chautauqua County Fair & Rodeo—Sedan

27 Food Preservation Workshop—Girard Extension Office, 5:30 – 8:30 pm, Registration due 7/21. 120 E. Buffalo St., Girard

28-29 Elk County Free Fair—Longton

August

13-19 Interstate Fair & Rodeo at Coffeyville

19-20 State 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes

22 Food Preservation Workshop—Independence Community College Fab Food Lab, 5:30-8:30 pm. Registration due 8/18. 2615 W. Main St, Independence.

24 Food Preservation Workshop—Fredonia, 1st Nat'l Bank, 4-H Learning Center, 5:30-8:30 pm. Registration due 8/18. 10392 Jade Rd. Old Iron Club, Fredonia.

September

4 Labor Day—Extension Offices Closed

8-17 Kansas State Fair—Hutchinson

30-10/2 Kansas Junior Livestock Show (KJLS)—Hutchinson

Grillin' and Chillin': Summer Food Safety

This is the time of year we head outside and fire up the grill and cook the most amazing meals. It's also a time when we juggle try to take shortcuts on food safety, trying to get everything we need ready for that mouthwatering meal. Here are a few food safety tips when grilling outdoors.

First and foremost, handwashing is a must before handling any foods. Especially in the summer when our hands may be covered with all kinds of dirt and chemicals (bug spray, sun screen, fertilizer, just plain dirt from pulling that weed that you just saw growing in your flower bed as you walked by).

Meat needs to cook to certain temperatures to ensure all

- 145°F Whole cuts of meat (steaks, roast, chops, fish, etc.)**
- 160°F Ground meats (beef, pork, & lamb)**
- 165°F Poultry (all types)**

The temperatures that are safe for meats when cooking indoors, also apply when your grilling or smoking. Keep a meat thermometer close to your grilling supplies when you move your cooking outdoors.

Other tips that are important to remember:

- ◆ **Keep meats cold until you're ready to cook.** Don't let them set out for hours on the counter to thaw. Over night in the refrigerator works well, it just takes a bit of planning.
- ◆ **Freeze meat that won't be used soon after you buy it.**
- ◆ **Keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold.** Keep salads in the refrigerator until just before serving.
- ◆ **Store leftovers promptly;** no more than 1-2 hours.
- ◆ **Leftovers should be eaten within 3-4 days or transferred to the freezer.**

Mayonnaise gets a bad rap for being a food safety concern. However, due to Mayo's high acidity, it can fend for itself. It's the cooked potatoes and eggs that we mix mayo into that causes the problem. They need refrigeration to avoid food safety risks.

The Med Way: Lifestyle changes key to successful aging

Walk Kansas is over for the year, but the changes can last throughout your lifetime. One of the changes that can keep us healthy, is what we eat. It doesn't mean we have to count calories, weigh our food, or even write down everything we consume. Just make a few changes:

Swap your fats. Instead of butter, use olive oil or canola oil for cooking foods. Don't eliminate them, just use better ones.

Eat more vegetables. Three cups of vegetables per day are recommended. Choose dark green and a variety of colors.

Eat more fruits. Get at least two servings/cups of fruit per day. Eat berries often.

Snack on nuts and seeds. Stick to about three ounces—about 3 small handfuls a week. Avoid nuts and seeds that are candied, honey roasted or high in salt.

Choose whole grains. Choose grains like oatmeal, quinoa, brown rice, popcorn and whole grain bread and pasta. Look for the word "whole" as the first item on the ingredient list.

Rethink your sweets. Limit sweets to no more than three servings per week. Instead, substitute fruit for high-sugar desserts.

Change your protein. Eat more white meat poultry, like chicken and turkey, and lean cuts of meat. Eat more fish and seafood. Beans are also a great source for protein. Eliminate processed meats or greatly limit them.

Half your plate should be fruits and vegetables. A little less than 1/4 should be proteins and the other 1/4 should be whole grains. These recommendations don't need to be abrupt changes. Additional resources are available online at the Med Instead of Meds website. Click on the olives to take you there.



Tomato and Cucumber Salad with Olive Oil and Oregano

- 1 Tomato, cut into large bite-sized pieces
- 1/2 Cucumber, peeled and cut into large bite-sized pieces
- 1 Tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
- 1/4 teaspoon dried oregano
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste.
- Optional: Sprinkle of crumbled feta or goat cheese.
- 1. add all ingredients to a bowl. Toss well. Eat.

Serves 1

Ragu Bolognese in Crockpot

- 2 T. extra virgin olive oil
- 2 medium onion, finely chopped
- 1 large carrot, finely chopped
- 2 celery stalks, finely chopped
- 12 oz. ground beef
- 6 oz. ground pork
- 1 sm. can mushrooms pieces with juice
- 2 C tomato puree
- Salt, to taste
- Pepper, to taste
- 3 cups beef or chicken stock
- 1. Chop the vegetables very finely. You can use a food processor.
- 2. Heat EVOO in a large saucepan. Add the onions, carrot and celery. Cook for around 10 minutes on medium-low heat until vegetables are softened.
- 3. Add beef and port mince. Break it apart with a wooden spoon and stir constantly until the meat is browned.
- 4. Deglaze with red wine.
- 5. Transfer your meat and vegetable mixture in a slow cooker. Add tomato puree, salt, pepper and cover with broth.
- 6. Cook on low in crockpot for 4 hours.

Serve over cooked pasta.

Serves 8 Freezes well!

Fair Dates Are Set

It's Fair Season again. The dates are set for the county fairs in Elk and Chautauqua Counties, the Interstate Fair and Rodeo at Coffeyville (note the change!) , and the Kansas State Fair. The dates are listed below.

July 19-22 Elk County 4-H/FFA Fair in Howard

July 26-29 Chautauqua County Fair in Sedan

July 28-29 Elk County Free Fair—Longton

August 13-19 Interstate Fair & Rodeo at Coffeyville

September 8-17 Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson



A new, revised, digital Kansas Garden Guide is available online (for free) at the KSRE Bookstore . Click on the picture of the book above!

If you would like a hardcopy of the new 196-page guide, it is available for \$44.00 through the KSRE Bookstore.

<https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/s51.pdf>

It's A Scam

We've all been there. The phone rings. We look at the caller ID and it's a number/name we recognize (County such-and-such Department) so it must be someone we know. We pick up the phone and the voice on the other line starts telling us that our account is badly in arrears and the company will take legal action immediately if you don't send them the money right now! They also mention that you can't discuss the problem with anyone.

That, my friends, is a scam. There are four signs, according to the Federal Trade Commission, that let us know how to identify a scam.

- 1. Scammers PRETEND to be from an organization you know.** They often pretend to be government agencies (e.g. Social Security, IRS, Medicare, etc.) or they may make up a name that sounds official. They may pretend to be from a business you know, like a utility company, Amazon, or even a charity asking for donations. They use technology to change the phone number that appears on your caller ID. So the name or number you see might not be real.
- 2. Scammers say there's a PROBLEM or a PRIZE.** They might say your in trouble with the government, you owe money, or even that someone in your family has had an emergency. They may tell you that there is a virus on your computer. They might say that you have a problem with your account and that you need to verify some information. They might even say you have won a "major award" but have to pay a fee or give personal information to get it.
- 3. Scammers PRESSURE you to act immediately.** Scammers want you to act immediately before you have time to think. They might tell you to not hang up. This is so you can't check out their story. They might threaten to take legal action or that your computer is about to be corrupted if you don't act RIGHT NOW.
- 4. Scammers tell you to PAY in a specific way.** They often insist that you pay by sending money or by putting money on a gift card and then giving them the number on the back. Some will even send you a check, but it will turn out to be fake. They will tell you to deposit it, and then send them money.



How to AVOID a Scam

Block unwanted calls, emails and text messages. Don't answer phone calls for numbers you don't recognize (let them go to voice mail). Don't open emails from major companies with whom you don't normally communicate. If you have an email that you question and have an account (like Amazon), look up your account and contact customer service.

Don't give your personal or financial information in response to a request you didn't expect. Legitimate organizations won't call, email, or text to ask for your personal information, like Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers.

If you get an email or text message from a company you do business with and you think it's real, **it's still best NOT to click on the link.** Contact them using a website you know is trustworthy. If it's a government entity, it will have ".gov" at the end.

Resist pressure to act immediately. Legitimate businesses will give you time to make a decision. Anyone who pressures you to pay or give them your personal information is a scammer.

Know how scammers tell you to pay. Never pay someone who insists you pay with a gift card or by using a money transfer service. Never deposit a check or send money back to someone.

Stop and talk to someone you trust. Before you do anything else, tell someone – a friend, family member, the local Sheriff's Department. Tell them what happened. Talking about it could help you realize it's a scam.

Lastly, if someone is threatening you, just hang up. Block their text. Delete their email. Walk away until you've had time to process the information or talk to someone.

Report Scams to the FTC (ReportFraud.ftc.gov)

Start Planning Your Fall Garden

MANHATTAN, Kan. – Many home gardeners in Kansas are starting to bring in the bounty from their spring and summer work these days, so Ward Upham, K-State Horticulture Expert, understands the last thing they are thinking about is planting vegetables.

But if they want to keep the harvest going through fall, that's exactly what they should do.

"Fall gardens will often produce higher quality, tastier cool-season crops if the vegetables mature during cooler, less stressful temperatures," said Upham.

For fall gardens, a guideline of when to plant common crops includes:

Mid-July: Plant potatoes if you can find them, or if you saved seed potatoes. Do not use freshly dug potatoes because they have a built-in dormancy that will prevent growth. Grocery store potatoes are often treated so that they don't sprout.

Cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower can be started from seed at this time. These crops are generally transplanted in mid-August.

Late July. Plant seed beets, carrots and beans.

Late July to early August. Plant seed spinach and long-season maturing lettuce.

Second week of August. Transplant cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower to their final location.

Mid- to late August. Plant seed radishes and leaf lettuce.

Click here to view the complete KSRE Vegetable Garden Planting Guide, including the Average Expecting Planting and Harvesting Calendars.

Some recommendation from Upham are:

- ◆ Plant seeds slightly deeper than they would have in the spring to keep the seed cooler and moister longer.
- ◆ Plant seeds more thickly and then thin the plants later.
- ◆ Plan to water more frequently; seeds should not be allowed to dry.
- ◆ To prevent the soil from crusting due to over-

head watering, apply a light sprinkling of peat moss, vermiculite or compost directly over the row after seeding.

- ◆ Even better, use a soaker hose or drip irrigation to allow the water to slowly seep into the ground.

Upham said there is no need to fertilize the ground before planting crops. He suggests applying a side dressing two weeks after transplanting crops, or four weeks after sowing seed by applying two tablespoons of 16-0-0 fertilizer, or one tablespoon of 27-3-3 or 39-3-4 fertilizer per plant. You can also use a liquid fertilizer, such as Schultz, Peters, Miracle-Gro or Rapid Grow, according to label directions," he said. "It would be a good idea to wash off the leaves with clean water to prevent burn from the fertilizer."

Upham and his colleagues in K-State's Department of Horticulture and Natural Resources produce a weekly Horticulture Newsletter with tips for keeping yards and gardens healthy and beautiful year-round. Click here to view the KSU Horticulture Newsletter.

Interested persons can also send their yard and garden-related questions to Upham at wupham@ksu.edu or the local county extension office.

Note: Name brands used in this article are for product identification purposes only, and are not intended to be an endorsement of any specific product by K-State Research and Extension.

Online Resources:

<https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/mf315.pdf>

<https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/news/stories/2020/07/plant-fall-garden-in-july.html>

<https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/horticulture-resource-center/horticulture-newsletter/>



Spot Spraying Rates and Recommendations for Brush Control

Richard H Fechter

Rolling Prairie Extension District Agent Agriculture and Natural Resources

This guide offers both per acre rates and spot spraying rates of herbicides to use for controlling brush and costs based on prices from the Kansas State University 2023 Chemical Weed Control Book (SRP 1176).

A list of herbicides that are typically used for brush control and the prices that are used to calculate the cost of treatment.

<u>Herbicide</u>	<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Active Ingredients</u>
Crossbow	Several	\$61.45/gallon	2.0 lb 2,4-D & 1.0 lb Triclopyr/gallon
Chaparral	Corteva	\$7.35/ounce	52.5% Aminopyralid & 9.45% metsulfuron
Escort XP	Bayer	\$10.00/ounce	Metsulfuron
Grazon Next HL	Corteva	\$59.10/gallon	0.41 lb Aminopyralid & 3.33 lb 2,4-D Amine/gallon
Remedy Ultra	Corteva	\$81.00/gallon	4.0 lb Triclopyr/gallon
Tordon 22K (<i>restricted use</i>)	Corteva	\$82.35/gallon	2.0 lb Picloram/gallon
2,4-D LVE	Several	\$48.95/gallon	6.0 lb/gallon

HEDGE: (Foliar Application) June - July. Can use Remedy Ultra OR Crossbow. Remedy Ultra is cheaper on a per treatment basis. One gallon of Remedy Ultra contains four times as much triclopyr as one gallon of Crossbow.

Sprayer Size/Amount of

<u>Water</u>	<u>Remedy Ultra & Cost</u>	<u>or</u>	<u>Crossbow & Cost</u>
Per Acre Rate	1.5 pints/\$15.19		1.5 gallons/\$92.18
14 gallon	9 ounces/\$5.70		27 ounces/\$12.96
25 gallon	1 pint/\$10.13		1.5 quarts/\$23.04
50 gallon	1 quart/\$20.25		3 quarts/\$46.09
100 gallon	2 quarts/\$40.50		1.5 gallons/\$92.18

GENERAL BRUSH & LOCUST: (Foliar Application) June - July. Whenever you have locust trees you are treating, you need to have some Tordon 22K in your mix for more effective control.

Sprayer Size/Amount of

<u>Water</u>	<u>Remedy Ultra & Cost</u>	<u>Tordon 22K & Cost</u>	<u>2,4-D LVE & Cost</u>	<u>Surfactant</u>
Per Acre Rate	1.5 pints/\$15.19	1 pint/\$10.29	1 pint/\$6.12	1 pint
14 gallon	9 ounces/\$5.70	9 ounces/\$5.79	9 ounces/\$3.44	9 ounces
25 gallon	1 pint/\$10.13	1 pint/\$10.29	1 pint/\$6.12	1 pint
50 gallon	1 quart/\$20.25	1 quart/\$20.59	1 quart/\$12.24	1 quart
100 gallon	2 quarts/\$40.50	2 quarts/\$41.18	2 quarts/\$24.48	2 quarts

Heavy Brush: (Foliar Application) June - July. Very dense with multiple species present.

Sprayer Size/Amount of

<u>Water</u>	<u>Remedy Ultra & Cost</u>	<u>GrazonNext HL</u>	<u>Surfactant</u>
1 gallon	4 tsp/\$0.42	2 tsp/\$0.15	4 tsp
14 gallon	9.5 ounces/\$5.99	4.75 ounces/\$2.19	9.5 ounces
25 gallon	1 pint/\$10.13	8 ounces/\$3.69	1 pint
50 gallon	1 quart/\$20.25	1 pint/\$7.39	1 quart
100 gallon	2 quarts/\$40.58	1 quart/\$14.78	2 quarts

BLACKBERRIES: Apply in spring after plants have dropped their flower petals. Usually late May. Plants flower on year-old wood, so if plants were mowed off last summer or burned this spring, plants will not flower. In this case, wait until new growth has produced 18 inch long stems, then spray. Early June in most years.

<u>Sprayer Size/Amount of</u> <u>Water</u>	<u>Remedy Ultra & Cost</u>	<u>or</u>	<u>Escort XP & Cost</u>	<u>Surfactant</u>
Per Acre Rate	1.5 pints/\$15.19		0.5 ounce/\$5.00	1 quart
14 gallon	18 ounces/\$11.39		0.14 ounce (4.2 grams)/\$0.14	1/2 cup
25 gallon	1 quart/\$20.25		0.25 ounce (7.5 grams)/\$2.50	1 cup
50 gallon	2 quarts/\$40.50		0.5 ounce/\$5.00	2 cups
100 gallon	1 gallon/\$81.00		1 ounce/\$10.00	1 quart

BUCKBRUSH: Apply when buckbrush is nearing full leaf stage and growing actively. Normal treatment time is May 1 - 15. 2,4-D LVE can be used at 1 - 2 quarts/acre or a 1% solution for spot treatments.

<u>Sprayer Size/Amount of</u> <u>Water</u>	<u>2,4-D & Cost</u>
Per Acre Rate	2 quarts/\$24.48
14 gallon	18 ounces/\$6.88
25 gallon	1 quart/\$12.24
50 gallon	2 quarts/\$24.48
100 gallon	1 gallon/\$48.95

SERICEA LESPEDEZA: Two chemicals work well on Sericea Lespedeza. They are Remedy Ultra and Escort XP. Remedy Ultra applications work best when the new growth is 12 to 15 inches tall, which usually occurs in June. The broadcast application rate for Remedy Ultra is 1.5 pints per acre. Tricopyr is the active ingredient in Remedy Ultra. Escort XP works best when applied in the fall when the Sericea Lespedeza plants are flowering. Depending on moisture, that could be as early as mid-August, but generally occurs in September. If fall weather is dry, delay application until flowers open. Dry weather will result in poor herbicide uptake and poor control. Add a non-ionic surfactant to Escort XP.

<u>Sprayer Size/Amount of</u> <u>Water</u>	<u>Remedy Ultra & Cost</u>	<u>or</u>	<u>Escort XP & Cost</u>	<u>Surfactant</u>
Per Acre Rate	1.5 pints/\$15.19		0.5 ounce/\$5.00	1 quart
14 gallon	18 ounces/\$11.39		0.14 ounce (4.2 grams)/\$0.14	1/2 cup
25 gallon	1 quart/\$20.25		0.25 ounce (7.5 grams)/\$2.50	1 cup
50 gallon	2 quarts/\$40.50		0.5 ounce/\$5.00	2 cups
100 gallon	1 gallon/\$81.00		1 ounce/\$10.00	1 quart

Spray Solution - In order to get good control, the amount of spray solution per acre must be increased. This is necessary to insure complete coverage of the sericea lespedeza plant. The recommended rates are:

- ☞ By air -- minimum of three gallons per acre to as much as five gallons per acre for dense stands.
- ☞ By ground -- a minimum of 10 gallons per acre to as much as 20 gallons per acre for dense stands.

All chemicals are subject to label statements. Those who apply chemicals are responsible for correct use. **ALWAYS READ THE LABEL BEFORE PURCHASE AND/OR USE.** Be sure you know how to apply, rate to apply, time of year to apply and use restrictions. **The user is responsible.**

Helpful Measurement Conversions

3 teaspoons = 1 tablespoon	1 pint = 2 cups = 16 ounces = 1 pound
2 tablespoons = 1 ounce	1 quart = 4 cups = 2 pints = 32 ounces
1 cup = 16 tablespoons = 8 ounces	1 gallon = 16 cups = 8 pints = 128 ounces

Weed Management in Ponds

This time every year, we get questions on pond weeds and how to kill them. The first thing a pond owner needs to do is identify what kind of weed they have and do they need to be controlled. Ponds need to have some aquatic vegetation to support healthy fish populations. Aquatic plants that cause weed problems may be placed into four groups: algae, floating weeds, emerged weeds (foliage above water), and submersed weeds (majority of foliage below water). All require different approaches for control.

Aquatic weed control is a management plan that incorporates preventive methods such as proper pond construction and maintenance, biological methods such as the grass carp and the use of labeled aquatic herbicides. The development of an aquatic weed management plan is dependent upon correctly identifying the problem weed(s) and selecting control methods that are compatible with efficient fish culture procedures.

Basic methods used to control weeds include preventive, biological and chemical techniques. Determining which of these techniques to use involves consideration of the target weed species, fish production objectives for the pond, secondary water uses, and the cost of treatment options. The first step in controlling any aquatic weeds is proper identification. If weeds are causing a problem with your pond, come by the office and ask us for the publication C667Aquatic Plants and Their Control. This publication will help you identify various weeds and suggested methods of control. You can also go to a Texas A&M website that has lots of photos and information to help identify ponds weeds. The website is: <https://aquaplant.tamu.edu/plant-identification/>. One rule of thumb to remember: never kill more than 1/3 of the vegetation at one time. As the vegetation decays, it causes oxygen deficiency. This causes odor problems and can kill fish.

Biological Control

The grass carp is a practical and economical way to control certain types of pond weeds. Grass carp effectively control weeds with tender succulent veg-

etation such as filamentous algae and duckweed, but are ineffective in controlling weeds that have tough, woody vegetation such as waterlily and cattail.

Chemical Control

Herbicides may be used to control weeds in commercial fish ponds. The first step in successful chemical control is accurate identification of the problem weed.

Sun Savvy

Summer is here and so are the harsh sun rays. Researchers say that a little sun is good for the body and mind: 20 minutes of sunshine helps in producing vitamin D, supports bone health, relieves blood pressure and promotes good mental health. It's a relief to be able to seek shade, but sometimes we have to work in the direct sun. Here are some ways to protect our skin:

- ◆ 30 SPF Sunscreen or higher, applied every 2 hours while outdoors.
- ◆ Cover as much skin as possible when outside. SPF clothing is a good way to do this and maintain comfort.
- ◆ Wear a hat.
- ◆ Use sunscreen all year round. Snow reflection can be just as damaging as direct sun.
- ◆ Remember vulnerable spots when applying sunscreen (top of head, tips of ears, and back of neck).
- ◆ Discard expired sunscreen and keep a fresh tube year-round.

Publications Available at Extension Offices

Several items are available to producers that may be of help to them starting the new year.

- 2023 Chemical Weed Control Guide
- 2023 IRM Redbooks
- Farmers Tax Guide - For Help in Preparing 2022 Tax Returns
- Farm Account Books

Stop by either office to get your copy.

Red Meat Allergy and Tick Bites

Tick activity started early this year. One tick that is gaining more press is the Lone Star tick, due to the condition that can result in some individuals having an allergic reaction to the consumption of red meat. This condition is known as Alpha gal syndrome or more commonly known as “Red Meat Allergy” caused by tick bites. Alpha-gal is a sugar compound that is present in the tick’s saliva and when feeding on a person they transmit this compound into the bite site. When this occurs, then in some people this will trigger an allergic reaction to red meat including beef, pork, or lamb.

The severity of the reaction will vary among different people with some having a delayed reaction up to 4-6 hours after the consumption of meat. Common symptoms seen in individuals having a reaction to red meat are scaly skin, swelling of body parts including the lips, tongue and throat, shortness of breath, headaches, digestive issues, runny nose, and sneezing. Most medical professionals believe this allergic reaction is severely under-reported due to the delay in the allergic reaction. Individuals should seek medical advice from an allergist if you experience or suspect to be encountering an allergic reaction especially if you know you have had tick bites in the past. More severe reactions that cause anaphylaxis (restriction of breathing), full body redness (flushing), rapid or weak pulse, dizziness, and an inability to swallow should seek medical attention immediately.



Specifically, when a Lone Star Tick feeds on animals such as beef, they pick up the alpha-gal molecules then transmit those to a human when feeding. All animals that represent red meat have various levels of alpha-gal molecules present in the tissue. Every individual person is different in immune response and little is understood to factors that increase the risk of this reaction. One pattern especially for ranchers, is that individuals that are exposed to many tick bites from the Lone Star Ticks over time then can develop severe symptoms. These severe reactions can lead to never being able to consume any red meat due to how the immune response functions in relation to activating when alpha-gal molecules are introduced in the body.

There is evidence that other tick species are involved but the most common tick feeding on cattle and humans during the summer is the Lone Star Tick. To avoid red meat allergies, the main thing to do is to lower the risk and prevent ticks from attaching or not attaching for a long period. The following precautions should be taken by those

outdoors:

- ◆ Use repellents when outdoors especially in known tick areas
- ◆ Wear light colored clothing in order to see ticks crawling on you
- ◆ Cover up with long sleeves or pants when in a heavily infested tick area
- ◆ Conduct a tick check immediately after coming in from the outdoors
- ◆ Take a shower as you as you come indoors mainly due to ticks will crawl over the skin sometimes for hours before attaching
- ◆ If a tick is found, then remove it with tweezers

The concerning issue is that there is no predictability on who will actually develop an allergic reaction to red meat after a bite from the Lone Star Tick. There is increasing evidence that more people are being diagnosed with this allergy. From the perspective of livestock producers, you not only have to protect yourself but try to limit the amount of Lone Star Ticks feeding on their animals to limit those ticks from transferring the alpha-gal compound. This is very challenging since tick populations are associated with the pasture environment not necessarily what you put on the animals to treat for ticks. Pastures that have a combination of tall grass, open grass areas neighboring wooded areas, and high wildlife activity are more prone to have higher tick populations. Burning pastures can limit tick populations for a period but then after normal forage and wildlife / livestock activity resumes then the tick populations will increase with some pastures supporting very high tick populations. Another issue for the Great Plains region is that pastures with high densities of Eastern Red Cedar trees support high Lone Star Tick populations. Ideally, livestock producers need to try to limit cedar growth in their pastures and implement some type of burning program to prevent large populations of ticks. If burning is not an option, then limit access to pastures with historic tick problems. Also, remember tick populations are difficult to measure because most tick infestations are not detecting until those animals are being looked at in a chute.

Overall, livestock producers can play a role in limiting tick populations that are feeding on their animals by identifying pastures with known tick problems then taking the appropriate steps to provide some level of protection for those animals with insecticides or dewormers. If livestock producers can limit the amount of ticks feeding on their animals then it could potentially limit the number of ticks transmitting the alpha-gal molecules to human populations.



Rolling Prairie Extension District #8,
Chautauqua and Elk Counties
215 N. Chautauqua
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Rolling Prairie Extension District on Facebook



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