

Pottawatomie County

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION NEWS

Agriculture and Natural Resources

pottawatomie.k-state.edu

December 2025

Pottawatomie County Extension

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Agriculture Risk Management

I have lived in Kansas my entire life, but it never ceases to amaze me how quickly our weather can change! This morning around 8:00 AM, there was essentially no wind and I started to feel bad about putting off a UAS flight because of the high wind warning. By 11:00 AM, it is a completely different story!

Production agriculture is a lot like the Kansas wind in that conditions can and often do change quite rapidly. My dad always said he had no need to travel to Vegas as he was already engaged in legalized, high-stakes gambling as a rancher. Cow-calf producers are generally “winning” right now, but other facets of agriculture, such as crop production, are quite challenged by high input and low commodity prices. Just a few years ago, the outlook was almost the opposite. Optimism is almost a required trait for a farmer/rancher, but understanding and utilizing risk management tools, strategies, and products is also important.

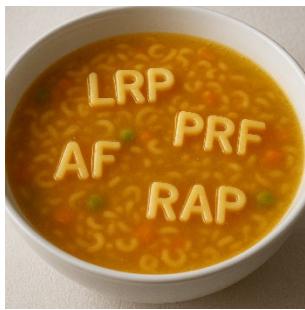
Some “newer” livestock and forage risk management options are available and warrant your consideration. Plan to attend our producer workshop in Onaga on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, to learn more and help you decide if they are beneficial for your operation. See more information on the next page of this newsletter.

For 2025 harvested crops, the “One Big Beautiful Bill” (OB3) Act secured the higher of the two Farm Bill programs, Price Loss Coverage (PLC) or Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC). However, producers will still have to decide and enroll in their program choice for 2026 harvested crops this spring. By late February, I will be happy to explain and discuss recommendations based on your farm data and price and yield predictions. Contact me to schedule an appointment. A factsheet on farm program changes made in the OB3 is available at this [link](#).

Shannon Blocker

Shannon Blocker
County Extension Agent
Agriculture and Natural Resources
K-State Extension, Pottawatomie County

Livestock and Forage “Alphabet Soup” Workshop: LRP, PRF, AF, and RAP January 21, 2026, in Onaga



LRP – Livestock Risk Protection Insurance
PRF – Pasture Rangeland Forage Insurance
AF – Annual Forage Insurance
RAP – Rangeland Analysis Platform

Pottawatomie County Extension is hosting a livestock and forage workshop to be held at Onaga High School commons area beginning at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, January 21, 2026. Topics will include livestock and forage risk management tools by Jenny Ifft, Kansas State University Agricultural Policy Specialist, and a hands-on activity using the Rangeland Analysis Platform, led by Shannon Blocker, Pottawatomie County Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources. Producers should plan to bring a laptop if they have one, but a limited number of Kansas State University Agricultural Economics computers will be available for use at this workshop. Registration is open at www.pottawatomie.ksu.edu under “Hot Topics.” Please register by January 14, 2026. Thanks to Pinion Risk Management for sponsoring this workshop.

Local Food Producer Workshops

Annually in February and March, K-State Extension hosts regional Local Food Producer Workshops in collaboration with the Kansas Department of Agriculture and the Kansas

Center for Sustainable Agriculture & Alternative Crops. These workshops are an opportunity for producers and small food businesses to learn more about selling their products through farmers markets, direct-to-consumers sales, and other local market opportunities. Participants can connect with other producers and learn from their peers to improve their business success.

Our closest Local Food Producer Workshop will be held in Holton on February 20, 2026. See this website <https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/kansaslocalfoods/get-involved/workshops.html> for more information and to register.

Great Plains Growers Conference

January 8, 9, and 10, 2026
Missouri Western University, St. Joseph, MO.

This conference is one of the very BEST research and extension conferences I have ever attended (and I've been to a lot.) If you are involved in commercial fruit, vegetable or flower production, go ahead and register for this year (2026) or put it on your calendar as a priority in coming years. It is always held in early January in St. Joseph, MO.

The Great Plains Growers Conference (GPGC) is THE HUB for commercial fruit and vegetable producers and hobbyists across Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, and other Midwestern states.

This 3-day Annual Event offers valuable, research-driven insights from vegetable research specialists and experienced local growers, designed to help your farm flourish and succeed.

There's no better place to connect with growers and experts from your region than the Great Plains Growers Conference. Make a friend, forge a relationship, build a supportive network that will last a lifetime and foster collaborative success within the fruit and vegetable industry.

See this website

<https://www.greatplainsgrowersconference.org/> for more information and to register.

Kansas Garden Hour Webinar - Soil Smarts: Best Practices to Improve Soil Health

January 7, 2026, 12:00 – 1:00 PM CST

Register [here](#) for the Zoom link

Discover simple, science-based practices that transform the way your lawn and garden grow. Join Shannon Blocker, Pottawatomie County Extension Agent, as she explores soil health through the powerful combination of physical, chemical, and biological functions collaborating in the soil beneath your feet. Learn to boost resilience, create a thriving landscape, and provide for long-term soil vitality.

Happy Holidays!

BRUSH CONTROL IN DORMANT SEASON

Basal Bark, Cut Stump, and Girdling Treatments

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These treatments are effective any time of the year, including the dormant season, when daytime temperatures are above freezing.



Basal Bark Treatment

Thoroughly spray herbicide on the lower 15-18 inches of the tree all the way around the circumference to the soil line. Mix herbicide according to specific label directions for basal bark treatment with diesel or water. After trees die, they can be removed without further treatment.



Cut Stump Treatment

Apply herbicide to the cambium layer, the ring of growth just inside the bark. It is important to apply herbicide on the entire circumference of the tree. You should treat as soon as possible following cutting (within ~20 minutes) for best herbicide uptake.



Girdling Treatment

Cut into and through the cambium layer around the circumference of the tree. Thoroughly treat cut groove with herbicide. This treatment method can work well to kill large diameter trees without the potential safety concerns of cutting a large tree.



Herbicides & Species Controlled

Remedy Ultra - Basal Bark or Cut Stump (Hedge, Locust, Elm, Cottonwood, Oak, Persimmon)
Pathfinder II - Basal Bark < 6" diameter or Cut Stump (Hedge, Locust, Elm, Cottonwood, Oak, Persimmon, Green Ash, Hackberry)
Tordon RTU - Cut Stump or Girdled (Elm, Oak, Persimmon, Green Ash)
Milestone - Basal Bark, Cut Stump, or Girdled (Locust)

For more details on Brush and Weed Control in Pasture and Rangeland, see specific herbicide labels and the linked handout:
<https://www.pottawatomie.k-state.edu/docs/Weed-Brush-Control.pdf>



The "Alphabet Soup" of Livestock & Forage Workshop

5:00-5:30 PM Registration

5:30-6:00 PM Supper

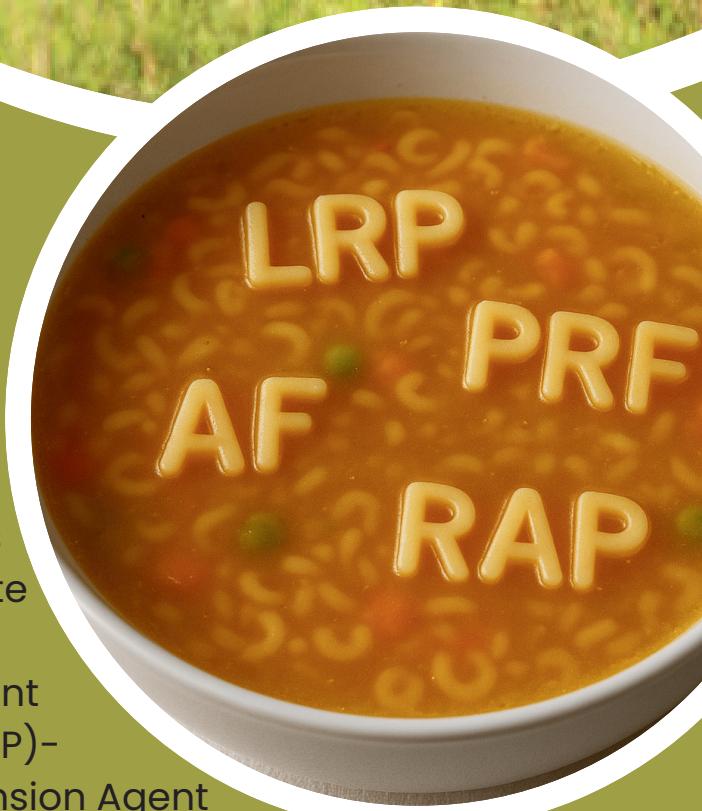
6:00-7:00 PM Livestock and Forage Insurances
(LRP, PRF, AF)-Dr. Jenny Ifft, K-State
Extension Ag Policy Specialist

7:00-7:30 PM Sponsor - Pinion Risk Management

7:30-8:30 PM Rangeland Analysis Platform (RAP)-

Shannon Blocker, PT County Extension Agent

**Bring a computer if you have one,
or register early to borrow one!**



21 JANUARY 2026

Onaga High School Commons Area
500 High Street, Onaga, KS 66521

REGISTER BY JAN 14!

WWW.POTTAWATOMIE.KSU.EDU



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Kansas State University is an equal opportunity provider and employer. For accommodation requests, please contact Shannon Blocker, (785) 457-3319 by 12/31/25.

P.O. Box 127
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Events and Dates

December

24-2 Pottawatomie County Extension Office
Closed

February

20 Holton Local Food Producers
Workshop

January

5 Pottawatomie County Extension Office
Reopens 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

March

7 EMG Spring Garden Classes; Wamego

7 Kansas Garden Hour Webinar -
Soil Smarts: Best Practices to Improve
Soil Health

21 Livestock Risk Protection (LRP), Forage
Rainfall insurances (PRF & AF), and
Rangeland Analysis Platform (RAP)
Workshop; Onaga