

Garden with entire family

Changes in the economic climate are, in part, being credited with driving increasing interest in home gardening and, particularly, in growing food. Gardening is a family-friendly activity and, a prime time for parents to help children learn about food and how it is grown, healthy living and eating, money management — and the environment.

Gardening alongside parents and siblings also can help a child develop new appreciation for the family. While working together, a child may think: "I didn't know my Mom (or Dad) knew how to do that." Younger children like to play in the dirt, so inviting a child to tag along when visiting a local nursery or spring garden section at a home, hardware or grocery store may be all that it takes to spark the beginning of a lifelong interest in gardening. Invite, rather than push.

Tips for parents or future gardeners:

- Preface the shopping trip by walking around the yard to scout out a garden location.
- No yard? Consider container gardening on a patio or deck.
- Choose a garden location that will get six to eight hours of sunlight during the summer.
- Start small, perhaps with a 10 x 10-foot plot or one or more containers.
- Choose a few early season vegetables, such as lettuce, onions or peas, that typically grow fast and will allow children to see results quickly.
- Follow early vegetables with summer favorites, such as peppers, tomatoes or squash that offer op-



Home Time

By Tranda Watts
Multi-county Extension Agent

opportunities for children to count tomatoes or sneak a peek to see how quickly squash grow.

- Supplement family favorites (tomatoes, beans, etc.) with one or two new varieties. An heirloom pink or purple tomato or bright orange pepper can intrigue children.

- Match garden tasks to a child's age. A younger child will be able help plant larger seeds; a child in the lower grades may be able to read seed packages and mark rows; and a middle school child may enjoy keeping a garden notebook or journal and recording varieties, planting dates and weather conditions. All will be likely to enjoy watering, harvesting home-grown vegetables and summer-fresh flowers, and sharing them with family, friends and neighbors.

- Rotate garden tasks to hold a child's interest.

- Provide each child with his or her own tool to nurture a sense of ownership. In choosing the tools, parents will want to consider their child's age and maturity. A small, rounded trowel can be a good choice for a grade school child, while a set of colorful pint-sized gloves may please a younger child. Buy a child-friendly tool, rather than

child's tool set, which often is not made to last. Shopping for tools at yard and garage sales can yield tools for a reasonable price. Choose tools with safety in mind and teach the child how to clean the tool and store it after each use. When properly cared for, garden tools will last many seasons.

As the summer progresses, a child's interest in the garden can wane, particularly when it becomes a chore, however, if a parent heads out to the garden, a child may quickly follow. Make it fun.

To stretch the gardening season without expanding garden space, replant with late summer crops such as melons, squash and pumpkins or decorative gourds after harvesting early season crops.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact your local K-State Research and Extension Office or e-mail twatts@ksu.edu.

Tranda Watts is Kansas State University extension specialist in food, nutrition, health and safety for Decatur, Gove, Norton, Sheridan, and Trego counties. Call her at 785-443-3663 or e-mail twatts@ksu.edu. For more information, contact the county extension office, 475-8121.

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TOWNSHIP FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

of Various Townships - DECATUR County, Kansas
for the year ending December 31, 2008, for the Preparation of the 2010 Budget.

LYON TOWNSHIP					
	Cash		Cash		Outstanding Warrants as of Dec 31st
	Balance	Jan 1st	Balance	Dec 31st	
GENERAL FUND	-	2,840	2,840	-	769
ROAD FUND	493	16,788	17,281	-	271
SPEC MACH	17,554	1,338	-	18,892	-
TOTALS	18,047	20,966	20,121	18,892	1,040
Outstanding Indebtedness as of December 31, 2008 \$ -0-					
Certified by:	LAWRENCE CARTER Township Treasurer	GIRARD MCKENNA Township Trustee	GREG MILLER Township Clerk		

OBERLIN TOWNSHIP					
	Cash		Cash		Outstanding Warrants as of Dec 31st
	Balance	Jan 1st	Balance	Dec 31st	
GENERAL FUND	5,204	94	2,889	2,409	-
ROAD FUND	5,617	34,138	20,746	19,009	-
SPEC ROAD	11,032	764	11,032	764	-
TOTALS	21,853	34,996	34,667	22,182	-
Outstanding Indebtedness as of December 31, 2008 \$ -0-					
Certified by:	GENE MORFORD Township Treasurer	MIKE COLEMAN Township Trustee	RON BRYAN Township Clerk		

OLIVE TOWNSHIP					
	Cash		Cash		Outstanding Warrants as of Dec 31st
	Balance	Jan 1st	Balance	Dec 31st	
GENERAL FUND	5,410	145	193	5,362	-
ROAD FUND	3,041	16,455	19,095	401	-
TOTALS	8,451	16,600	19,288	5,763	-
Outstanding Indebtedness as of December 31, 2008 \$ -0-					
Certified by:	DENISE ABBEY Township Treasurer	TYLER WITT Township Trustee	BRIAN SIMONSSON Township Clerk		

PLEASANT VALLEY TOWNSHIP					
	Cash		Cash		Outstanding Warrants as of Dec 31st
	Balance	Jan 1st	Balance	Dec 31st	
GENERAL FUND	2,720	4,292	7,012	-	-
ROAD FUND	3,707	22,750	26,457	-	-
SPEC MACH	39,767	5,687	-	45,454	-
SPEC ROAD	5,524	5,464	2,744	8,244	-
TOTALS	51,718	38,193	36,213	53,698	-
Outstanding Indebtedness as of December 31, 2008 \$ -0-					
Certified by:	JERRY FOSTER Township Treasurer	KEN CARTER Township Trustee	LAWRENCE JENNINGS Township Clerk		

PRAIRIE DOG TOWNSHIP					
	Cash		Cash		Outstanding Warrants as of Dec 31st
	Balance	Jan 1st	Balance	Dec 31st	
GENERAL FUND	365	2,111	1,609	867	-
ROAD FUND	2,276	20,949	16,834	6,391	-
SPEC MACH	2,925	-	-	2,925	-
SPEC ROAD	9,048	6,243	10,186	5,105	-
TOTALS	14,614	29,303	28,629	15,288	-
Outstanding Indebtedness as of December 31, 2008 \$ -0-					
Certified by:	BETTY HICKERT Township Treasurer	RICK HICKERT Township Trustee	KENT ASHLEY Township Clerk		

ROOSEVELT TOWNSHIP					
	Cash		Cash		Outstanding Warrants as of Dec 31st
	Balance	Jan 1st	Balance	Dec 31st	
GENERAL FUND	2,350	3,538	5,549	339	160
ROAD FUND	6	17,645	17,568	83	-
SPEC MACH	26,100	2,900	-	29,000	-
TOTALS	28,456	24,083	23,117	29,422	160
Outstanding Indebtedness as of December 31, 2008 \$ -0-					
Certified by:	TERRY RUSH Township Treasurer	MIKE FERGUSON Township Trustee	PAUL UEHLIN Township Clerk		

SAPPA TOWNSHIP					
	Cash		Cash		Outstanding Warrants as of Dec 31st
	Balance	Jan 1st	Balance	Dec 31st	
GENERAL FUND	4,179	946	1,067	4,058	-
ROAD FUND	2,961	15,134	16,681	1,414	-
SPEC MACH	21,600	3,784	-	25,384	-
TOTALS	28,740	19,864	17,748	30,856	-
Outstanding Indebtedness as of December 31, 2008 \$ -0-					
Certified by:	ROD BRYAN Township Treasurer	PAUL SHIELDS Township Trustee	RICHARD ANDERSON Township Clerk		

SHERMAN TOWNSHIP					
	Cash		Cash		Outstanding Warrants as of Dec 31st
	Balance	Jan 1st	Balance	Dec 31st	
GENERAL FUND	7,688	1,151	1,054	7,785	-
ROAD FUND	6,100	14,542	14,216	6,426	-
TOTALS	13,788	15,693	15,270	14,211	-
Outstanding Indebtedness as of December 31, 2008 \$ -0-					
Certified by:	LARRY ROE Township Treasurer	PHIL WURM Township Trustee	BRAD UEHLIN Township Clerk		

SUMMIT TOWNSHIP					
	Cash		Cash		Outstanding Warrants as of Dec 31st
	Balance	Jan 1st	Balance	Dec 31st	
GENERAL FUND	5,620	1,897	976	6,541	-
ROAD FUND	9,635	14,670	16,615	7,690	-
TOTALS	15,255	16,567	17,591	14,231	-
Outstanding Indebtedness as of December 31, 2008 \$ -0-					
Certified by:	PAUL TALLY Township Treasurer	MONTE MOORE Township Trustee	BRAD MARCUSON Township Clerk		

*The above named Township Officers do certify that the foregoing is a summary of moneys received by the various Townships and expended together with the indebtedness of said various Township for the year ending December 31, 2008.

All of the above Townships had -0- Outstanding Indebtedness as of December 31, 2008. Detailed Statements of Receipts, Expenditures and Liabilities are available at the Office of the Decatur County Clerk.

-Form required by K.S. A 80-410 - Done so by - Colleen Geihlsler, Decatur County Clerk