

Meadowlark District Extension News  
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***The Value of Ag Data – February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020***

North Carolina State University published an article in the fall of 2019 about on-farm data and increase in collection and interpretation of that data. In it, Communications Specialist Jennifer Howard states: *Never before have growers had so much information at their fingertips. From sensors embedded in farm machinery to constellations of satellites taking pictures, data is flowing everywhere. It is estimated that by 2025 an average-sized farm will produce over 1 million data points a day.* Think about that for a second. One million data points a day. How can you manage one million data points a day? Is it useful? How can it best be used? If it was stolen, would you pay to get it back?

All of those questions will be intertwined as part of a general discussion entitled *The Value of Ag Data (and how to capture it...)* hosted by the Meadowlark Extension District and Brown County Extension on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the Glacial Hills Business Resource Center. We'll gather for coffee at 10:00 AM at the Center, located at 913 Dakota Street in Sabetha, kicking off the meeting at 10:15 with: *What is Ag Data and How Can We Capture Value From It?* K-State Research & Extension Cropping Systems Economist Dr. Terry Griffin has spent the better part of his career discussing ag data issues. He'll be on hand to share his observations about that data, and how it might be valued. After his presentation, we'll finish the morning with a producer/presenter discussion. We'll wrap up with a light lunch at noon.

For meal and handout count purposes, please RSVP by noon Monday February 24<sup>th</sup> to the Seneca Office of the Meadowlark Extension District at (785) 336-2184 or by e-mailing me at [dhallaue@ksu.edu](mailto:dhallaue@ksu.edu). It should be a great morning of discussion on all things ag data.

***Pruning Fruit Trees***

Mid-February through late March is fruit tree pruning season. That means, so long as the wood isn't frozen, it might be time to think about caring for those fruit trees. For mature trees, follow these steps in order until you reach removal of 30 percent of the tree:

Start by removing broken, damaged or diseased branches.

When two branches form a narrow angle, prune one out. Narrow angles are weak and more prone to breaking during wind or ice storms.

Remove suckers – branches that grow straight up from the trunk or major branches.

If two branches cross and rub against one another, remove one

Cut back or remove branches that are low and interfere with harvest or pruning.

Cut back branches to reduce the total size of the tree, if necessary.

Thin branches on the interior of the tree.

When cutting back a branch, always cut back to another branch or a bud. Do not leave a stub. Always cut at the branch collar when possible.

For more specific detail, check out the following publications: *Pruning Apple and Pear Trees*: <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3450.pdf> or *Pruning Peaches, Plums, Cherries and Other Stone Fruits*: <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3451.pdf>. Both publications are available online or upon request from a District Extension Office.