

## K-State Research and Extension Walnut Creek District

### Upcoming Dates

#### FEBRUARY 2024

#### FEBRUARY

- 2 - RSVP for Risk Management & Predator Control
- 4 - 4-H on the 4th
- 6 - Livestock Risk and Predator Control - Dighton
- 7 - K-State Garden Hour Webinar Series by Zoom
- 7 - Lane County 4-H Cloverbuds
- 10 - RSVP for BQA - Call 785-273-5225
- 12 - Rescheduled Calving School - Rush Center
- 12 - Registration deadline for Jr. Beef Producer Day
- 13 - LIEAP at Otis Community Library - 10 am
- 15 - Elder Abuse and Neglect - Ness City Leisure Center
- 17 - Walnut Creek District 4-H Day - Dighton
- 19 - Office Closed for President's Day
- 20 - BQA Certification & Training - LaCrosse Livestock
- 21 - LIEAP at Ranson Senior Center - 11:30 am
- 24 - 4-H Judges Training Rescheduled - Hays
- 26 - WCED Extension Board meeting - 6:30 pm
- 26 - Registration Deadline for Jr. Sheep Producer Day

#### MARCH

- 2 - Regional 4-H Day - Dodge City
- 2 - K-State Jr. Beef Producer Day - Manhattan
- 6 - Lane County 4-H Cloverbuds
- 6 - K-State Garden Hour Webinar Series by Zoom
- 16 - K-State Jr Sheep Producer Day - Manhattan

**CONGRATS** to those who have been elected to serve on the '24 Walnut Creek Extension District board for their respective county.

Lane - Austin Bretz, Katie Riffle, Cortnie Price, Erik Steffens

Ness - Alvera Davison, Judy Delaney, Brittany Nichepor, Nick Henning

Rush - Linda Woods, Nada Wells, Don Reinhardt, Janelle Maier.

#### Walnut Creek District Offices

LANE COUNTY OFFICE  
144 S. LANE, COURTHOUSE  
P O BOX 487  
DIGHTON, KS 67839  
620-397-2806

- Lacey Noterman, Director and Agriculture Ext. Agent - [lnote@ksu.edu](mailto:lnote@ksu.edu)
- Chelsey Shapland, 4-H Program Assistant - [cshapland@ksu.edu](mailto:cshapland@ksu.edu)
- Donnis Maughlin, Office Professional - [dmaughli@ksu.edu](mailto:dmaughli@ksu.edu)

NESS COUNTY OFFICE  
503 S PENNSYLVANIA AVE  
NESS CITY, KS 67560  
785-798-3921

- Robyn Trussel, 4-H and Youth Agent [rdeines@ksu.edu](mailto:rdeines@ksu.edu)
- Kristen Schmidt, Family Community Wellness - [kbschmidt@ksu.edu](mailto:kbschmidt@ksu.edu)
- Randae Rufenacht, Office Professional [rrufenac@ksu.edu](mailto:rrufenac@ksu.edu)

RUSH COUNTY OFFICE  
702 MAIN, P O BOX 70  
LACROSSE, KS 67548  
785-222-2710

- Jared Petersilie, Agriculture Extension Agent - [jaredp11@ksu.edu](mailto:jaredp11@ksu.edu)
- Berny Unruh, Office Professional [bunruh@ksu.edu](mailto:bunruh@ksu.edu)

### Thank You!

Thank you to Dane Whitley and Bryan Foes for their years of service as Walnut Creek Extension Board members!

## Upcoming Dates:

### February

- 2: Happy Groundhog Day - Hope that li'l rascal does not see his shadow
- 4: 4-H on the 4th - Share your favorite 4-H photo past or present with Robyn at [rdeines@ksu.edu](mailto:rdeines@ksu.edu)
- 5: Lane County 4-H Council
- 9: 4-H Club Days Entries are due by NOON today
- 9: Dighton Early Dismissal After School activities
- 12: Rush County 4-H Council
- 14: Happy Valentines Day
- 17: District 4-H Club Days at Dighton High School
- 24: NW Area Judges Training , Hays

### March

- 2: Regional 4-H Club Days, Dodge City

## The Energy Bus by Jon Gordon

Every morning you have a choice. Are you going to be a positive thinker or a negative thinker? Positive thinking will energize you. If you want to fuel your family, your career, your team and your organization with spirit, then read this book and “jump on the energy bus”.

### The Rules For the Ride of Your Life

1. You're the driver of your bus.
2. Desire, Vision and Focus move your bus in the right direction.
3. Fuel your ride with positive energy.
4. Invite people on your bus and share your vision for the road ahead.
5. Don't waste your energy on those who don't get on your bus.
6. Post a sign that says NO ENERGY VAMPIRES ALLOWED on your bus.
7. Enthusiasm attracts more passengers and energizes them during the ride.
8. Love your passengers.
9. Drive with purpose.
10. Have fun and enjoy the ride.



Utilize the Energy Bus principles to build a positive, high performing team. A simple powerful practice for businesses, organizations, schools, churches, sports teams and even families. If this has intrigued you, grab this book for a quick read and “Jump on the Energy Bus!”.

**Positive energy is like a muscle. The more you use it the stronger it gets. The stronger it gets the more powerful you become. Repetition is the key and the more you focus on positive energy the more it becomes your natural state.”**

**— Jon Gordon**

## 4-H Market Steer Selection Tips:

When selecting your 4-H market steer here are some guidelines:

- Choose a steer calf in the fall, using a frame score 4-5.
- Steers need to be born between Jan. 1 & Sept. 1 of previous 4-H year.
- Steers should weigh 800-1050 lbs at one of the spring weigh ins. Steers must be tagged with an official KS 4-H tag.
- Selection is important. Select a fresh steer that will be 14-18 months old by fair time.
- Start your fresh, young steer calves out on a finishing ration about 5 months prior to fair time. Steers should gain about 450 lbs during the 5 months prior to fair.
- Steers underweight will not compete for breed champion or be allowed in the premium sale auction.



### Care & Management

- Most steers grade choice at 1250-1450lbs. This should be your target weight for the end of July/first of August fair.
- Steers can easily gain 2-3 lbs a day when on full feed. The average rate of gain should be 2.5-4 lbs/day.
- Pencil out the days until the fair and figure out what your steer will need to gain to be ready for the fair.
- Dairy beef usually need more time to add weight to finish choice, be sure to allow this extra time.
- Steer calves should be dewormed, treated for lice & vaccinated for clostridial diseases (7-way), shipping fever complex, (IBR, BVD, P13) & hemophilus somnus if not already vaccinated.

**Call and book your packing house date today, to insure that you or your buyer have a butcher date.**

**If you have any questions about your 4-H Beef project feel free to contact your local Extension Office.**

# NW 4-H Super Saturday



Mark your Calendar for the  
NW 4-H Super Saturday Judging Event  
Saturday, March 23, 9:00am to Finish

Fort Hays State University, Albertson Hall on campus and  
the Livestock Pavilion north of I-70

Judging Contests included: Crops, Entomology, Horticulture, Life Skills, Photography and  
Livestock Skill-a-thon in the morning; Livestock Judging with check-in beginning at 12:30pm

Volunteer/ Parent Sessions will be hosted from 10:00am to noon  
Project opportunities will be offered in the afternoon from 1:00 to 3:00pm

## What is sensory play?

Sensory play is any activity that stimulates our senses – touch, sight, hearing, smell and taste. It helps children interact with and make sense of the world that surrounds them. Sensory play, plays an important role in a child's learning and development. Much of our learning comes through our ability to use our senses to retain information.

Sensory play is a lot of fun. It also offers many benefits for child development, including:

- Helping children understand how their actions affect what's around them.
- Supporting brain development, enhancing memory, complex tasks and problem solving.
- Developing fine motor skills through tactile play (useful when children want to hold a pen or use scissors for example).
- Supporting language development, communication and social skills.
- Enhancing memory and observational skills.
- Encouraging creative and independent thinking.
- Emotional regulation by providing a calming effect on children's angry or anxious feelings.

From birth, children are ready for sensory play. Children are natural explorers – they're constantly learning and taking in what's around them. Sensory activities can be adapted for different ages, needs and abilities.

Playdough is a great sensory tool for kids. There are so many benefits to playing with play dough! From the feel to the smell of it, your kids will use their different senses as they play, explore, and experiment. By squeezing, rolling, and squishing the dough, your children will develop their fine motor skills and strengthen their hand muscles too. The development of these will help them learn to write and improve other pre-writing skills.

### What's Needed:

- 1 Tablespoon of Cream of Tartar
- 1 Cup of Flour
- ¼ Cup of Salt
- 2 Tablespoons of Vegetable Oil
- 1 Cup of Water
- 1 Package (3 ounce) of any flavor of Jell-o

### How To Make Jell-o Play Dough:

To begin making this sensory recipe, combine all of the ingredients in a medium pot. Next, whisk the ingredients together until they are well blended. Then, place the pot over medium heat and cook for 5 to 7 minutes, stirring constantly. When the dough comes together as a ball and the liquid has absorbed, transfer the dough to waxed, freezer or parchment paper. While the dough is still warm but cool to touch, knead the dough until smooth for about 2 minutes. You can store the play dough in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to two months or at room temperature for 3 days.

Change it up for the holidays and when you need to make a fresh batch.

**Valentines:** Make cherry, strawberry or grape

**St Patrick's Day:** make lime and lemon

**4th of July:** make cherry and blueberry







# Need Assistance with Energy Costs?

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) is a federally funded program that helps eligible households pay a portion of their home energy costs by providing a one-time per year benefit.

The 2024 LIEAP application period is from  
December 18, 2023 through March 29, 2024.

Applications are available for pickup at your local K-State Research  
and Extension office in Lane, Rush or Ness County.



Online applications are also accepted at:

<https://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/ees/Pages/EnergyAssistance.aspx>

## 2024 Income Guidelines

Persons Living at the Address	Maximum Gross Monthly Income
1	\$1,823
2	\$2,465
3	\$3,108
4	\$3,750
5	\$4,393
6	\$5,035
7	\$5,678
8	\$6,320
9	\$6,963
10	\$7,605
11	\$8,248
12	\$8,890
+1	\$643 for each additional person

## Upcoming Programs

### LIEAP

Otis Community Library  
February 13th at 10 am

Elder Abuse and Neglect  
Ness City Leisure Center  
February 15th at 12 Noon

### LIEAP

Ransom Senior Center  
Feb 21st at 11:30 am

If you would like more information but are unable to attend, please contact Kristen Schmidt,  
Family Community Wellness Agent by email at [kbschmidt@ksu.edu](mailto:kbschmidt@ksu.edu)  
or call 785-222-2710 in LaCrosse, 785-798-3921 in Ness or 620-397-286 in Dighton



**Lacey Noterman**

District Director  
Agronomy/Horticulture  
[lnotem@ksu.edu](mailto:lnotem@ksu.edu)

## K-State Garden hour Webinar Series

Kansas State Research and Extension will be continuing the Garden Hour webinar series through 2024. This webinar series offers free access to monthly presentations covering various horticulture topics such as plant selection for Kansas landscapes, drought-tolerant plants, saving seeds, irrigation practices, and much more.

Tune in on the first Wednesday of each month for relevant gardening topics. The presentations will take place live from 12:00 pm to 1:00pm with a 45-minute presentation and 10-15 minutes for questions! Sessions are recorded. Register below for the 2024 K-State Garden Hour Series. <https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/consumer-horticulture/garden-hour/>

## Farm Transition Conference

The Kansas State University Department of Agricultural Economics will be hosting 3 conferences to help farmers and ranchers plan for the transition of their farm to the next generation.

The locations of the conference include:

March 6th: Garden City – Clarion Inn

March 7th: Great Bend – Great Bend Convention Center

March 8th: Manhattan – Manhattan Convention Center

Each conference begins at 9:00am and adjourns by 3:00pm. Lunch and materials will be provided. Registration cost \$60/ per person and must be received by March 1st. More information about the conference is available at [www.AgManager.info/events](http://www.AgManager.info/events)

## Order Conservation Planting Items Now

The Kansas Forest Service's Conservation Tree Program offers tree and shrub seedlings, as well as other items for use in conservation plantings. Plantings may function as wildlife habitat, windbreaks, wood lots, timber plantations, or educational and riparian plantings.

The spring distribution offers both bare root and container-grown seedlings for sale. Orders are accepted January 5th through May 1st. Orders are shipped or picked up beginning in mid-March. Orders can be made online <https://kansas-forest-service-3749.myshopify.com/> or over the phone by calling 1-888-740-8733.

The Conservation Tree and Shrub Spring Sale continues to be a cost-effective avenue for landowners and organizations to establish windbreaks and such.

For more information check out: <https://www.kansasforests.org>





## Coping with Rascally Racoons with Drew Rickets, Wildlife Management and Control Specialist

Raccoons are very intelligent, resourceful animals that often live around farmyards in hollow trees, holes created by other animals, brush piles, abandoned vehicles and farm machinery, and buildings. Raccoons are omnivorous, meaning that their diet is very diverse and can include plant material such as fruits and nuts, animal matter from earthworms and insects to reptiles, amphibians, small mammals and birds. While raccoons are fascinating animals, their broad diet, intelligence, and willingness to live close to humans can lead to conflicts with people and pets and the need for some form of control.

A couple of trends about raccoons in KS are very clear from the [Roadside Index](#). First, the species can be found throughout the state, and densities increase as water and trees become more common from west to east. Second, raccoons have become more abundant during the last 30 to 40 years. In fact, the roadside index for raccoons has increased from about 2 in 1980 to approximately 8 in 2023! While this doesn't necessarily mean that there are 4 times more raccoons in KS now than there were in 1980, there are definitely more, and there are likely more raccoons in the state now than there ever have been. The obvious cause for the increase in their abundance is reduced harvest by trappers and hunters since the fur market crash of the late 1980s, but several other factors associated with settlement of the Great Plains are also probably important including fewer predators and increased habitat from tree planting and fire prevention.

More raccoons living in areas occupied by people, or the resources we care about, leads to more conflicts. Because of this, many folks are grasping for options to manage problems with raccoons on their own. Sometimes, the solution is as simple as not feeding pets free choice outdoors, removing bird or other wildlife feeders, or securing trash containers, as these food sources often attract raccoons that can cause problems. However, when raccoons have made homes in buildings, are causing significant crop damage, killing poultry, or damaging livestock food sources, they may need to be removed. Many states, including Kansas, have a statute that allows removal of animals that are causing property damage, as long as they are not federally protected by the Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, or a state protected species. Raccoons are a furbearing animal in KS, so there is a season on their harvest, but landowners, legal occupants, or a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO) may use lethal means to remedy a problem that they are causing outside of the legal season and without a license to harvest as long as they use a legal method of take and do not try to utilize the animal that has been removed.

Municipalities often have restrictions on trap types that require cage traps to be used, or may even prevent homeowners from conducting their own trapping within city limits, so always check local laws before beginning a wildlife control program. Fortunately, raccoons are relatively easy to capture in cage traps that have a door opening of 10 x 11 inches or larger and are 2 to 3 feet long. With any trapping program, it is important to set traps where the animals are already present. To do this, look for areas with tracks, scat, other sign of the animal's presence, or areas where the animal is seen frequently. Traps must be checked every 24 hours, and trapped raccoons can be humanely dispatched with a gunshot to the head. However, animals caught in town may need to be transported outside of the city limits where discharging a firearm is legal.

Kansas residents experiencing raccoon damage have several options for receiving assistance with lethal control efforts. Local trappers and hunters are often happy for the opportunity to harvest raccoons on new properties, especially during the Kansas furbearer season from mid-November to mid-February. There are also many NWCOs throughout the state who will provide wildlife damage control assistance for a fee. A list of NWCOs, their location, and the species that they control may be found [here](#). The Wildlife Damage Control Act of 1972 directs K-State Research and Extension to conduct a statewide program in wildlife damage control. Through this program, the Extension Wildlife Specialist is available to provide training to farmers and ranchers in effective control techniques and provide, on loan, control equipment not readily available. Contact information for the Extension Wildlife specialist can be found [here](#).

For additional information on Wildlife Management, please visit the KSRE Wildlife Management website <https://www.wildlife.k-state.edu>



**Jared Petersilie**

Extension Agent  
Animal Sciences  
Farm Management  
[jaredp11@ksu.edu](mailto:jaredp11@ksu.edu)



# BARN TALK

## Share-Lease Agreements for Cow-Calf Operations

Individuals may look to enter into a share or lease agreement for cows for several reasons. For example, a cow owner may wish to transfer ownership over time or to retain income without the labor of cow care. Advantages to the operator may include a way to get started in cow/calf production or to utilize available labor more fully. Trust between parties is the foundation of any agreement followed by clear communication.

There are multiple ways to set up these arrangements and include cash leases, management agreements or profit-sharing agreements. Cash leases are best developed by the enterprise. So, the cow enterprise has its own arrangements, as does one each for land, machinery or other inputs that are involved. Depending on the category, rental charges may be based on usage or an hourly rate.

A management agreement often occurs when an owner wants to gradually transfer the herd to another individual. Rather than receiving an hourly wage, a percentage of the herd is transferred to the new operator each year. Management decisions such as breeding or marketing goals need to shift to the new operator as well if the new operator will eventually own the entire herd.

A profit-sharing type of agreement is common and helps both parties manage risk and provides incentives. The key to this type of arrangement is understanding the value of the inputs each party will make to determine how to share the income.

While one might think that individuals who share common approaches or ideas toward running a cow-calf operation could easily set up an agreement, there are numerous details, some easier to address than others, that must be discussed to cover all the particulars. For example:

- Starting and ending dates of the agreement, terms to renew, terms for termination.
- Performance expectations such as body condition, pregnancy rate, weaning rate, and weaning weight.
- How are acts of nature handled? (drought, blizzard, operator health issue)
- How are calves priced if sold between parties?
- What are the logistics of dividing the calf crop (revenue based, equal number of steers and heifers or other)
- How are culls determined and who gets the income?

An equitable lease agreement starts with determining the costs to be included and the contribution of each party to the arrangement. A separate agreement for replacements, raised or purchased, is often recommended due to the added complexities. Detailed budget worksheets are available on [AgManager.info](https://www.agmanager.info) and can serve as a starting place when discussing costs. All normal production costs (feed, vet costs, etc.), cost of the investment capital, labor costs and a management charge should be included. Spreadsheets, linked below, are also available that allow parties to enter their own costs and the proportion covered by each party as inputs, resulting in a calculated summary of costs for each party.

Given the current market and interest rates, the cow owner's inputs have changed compared to 2-3 years ago, all of which might impact what a fair share is for 2024. Current market volatility creates additional challenges for all parties but should be addressed. Regular communication between parties during the year can better position the partners for adapting to unforeseen circumstances such as might arise from global impacts on our markets.

More detailed information on developing agreements can be found in the links provided below. Each can contribute insight into the considerations and ways to set up an equitable plan for both parties.

<https://enewsletters.k-state.edu/beeftips/2023/12/29/share-lease-agreements-for-cow-calf-operations>



# K-STATE

Research and Extension

Walnut Creek District

## Livestock Risk and Predator Control



**Tuesday, February 6, begins at 5:30 pm**  
**Lane County Fairgrounds, Dighton**

RSVP for the meal by Feb 2nd  
by email to [jaredp11@ksu.edu](mailto:jaredp11@ksu.edu) or call 785-222-2710  
Freewill donation to the Lane County FCE

***Dr. Jenny Ifft***

**Risk Management  
Focusing on Livestock  
Risk Protection Policies**

**Dr. Drew Ricketts**

**Predator  
Managment with  
a Coyote Focus**

**For more information contact:  
Jared Petersilie 785-222-2710  
[jaredp11@ksu.edu](mailto:jaredp11@ksu.edu)**



# Calving School Rescheduled to Monday, February 12

K-State Research and Extension  
Walnut Creek District

## CALVING SCHOOL

RSVP for the meal by February 9th  
Free will donation to 4-H for  
Beef and Noodles meal



Registration Starting at 5:30 pm  
Township Hall  
Rush Center , KS

- ✓ Dr. Aaron Larson - Correcting forms of dystocia and when to intervene
- ✓ Dr. Gregg Hanzlicek discussing fetal and newborn care and development: vaccinations, colostrum replacers & more

For more information contact:

Jared Petersilie 785-222-2710  
jaredp11@ksu.edu

MONDAY,  
**FEBRUARY**  
**12**

NO Cost  
but please  
RSVP by phone  
or email

K-State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service  
K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



## Otis Community Library

122 S. Main  
Otis, KS 67565

**Tuesday, February 13, 2024**  
**10:00 a.m.**

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) is a Federally funded program that helps eligible households pay a portion of their home energy costs by providing a one-time per year benefit.

The 2024 LIEAP application period began December 18, 2023 and will continue until the close of business on Friday, March 29, 2024.

**Please join us to learn more about this program**

**\*Coffee and Refreshments will be provided\***

If you would like information, but are unable to attend, please contact Kristen Schmidt, Family and Community Wellness Agent, at 785-222-2710



**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

Walnut Creek District

K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services, and activities. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the event contact, Kristen Schmidt two weeks prior to the start of the event at 785-222-2710. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service. K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



# Elder Abuse and Neglect: *What You Should Know*

## Ness City Leisure Years Center

422 North Topeka Avenue  
Ness City, KS 67560

Thursday, February 15, 2024  
12:00 P.M.

- What is elder abuse?
- What are the warning signs of abuse?
- Who is at risk for abuse?
- Who perpetrates abuse?
- How can it be prevented?
- How can I report suspected abuse?



***Kristen Schmidt, Family and Community Wellness Extension Agent***

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Research and Extension

Walnut Creek District

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# LIEAP

## **Ransom Senior Center**

409 Vermont  
Ransom, KS 67572

**Wednesday, February 21, 2024**  
**11:30 A.M.**

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) is a Federally funded program that helps eligible households pay a portion of their home energy costs by providing a one-time per year benefit.

The 2024 LIEAP application period began December 12, 2023 and will continue until the close of business on Friday, March 29, 2024.

**If you would like more information, but are unable to attend, please contact Kristen Schmidt, Family and Community Wellness Agent, at 785-798-3921**

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# Crop Talk

## Webinar Series

**Broadcast Live from 12:00 – 1:00 pm CT  
via Zoom and YouTube**

**February 20**

**Management Tactics for Wheat Production**  
*Romulo Lollato, K-State Wheat Specialist*

**February 27**

**Biological Products and Their Role in Soil Fertility**  
*Dave Franzen, North Dakota State Soil Specialist*

**March 5**

**Managing Areas of Fields with High pH**  
*Dorivar Ruiz Diaz, K-State Soil Fertility Specialist*

**March 12**

**Fallow Replacement Options in Dryland Rotations**  
*Lucas Haag, K-State Northwest Area Agronomist*

**Register to attend at  
[www.northwest.ksu.edu/events](http://www.northwest.ksu.edu/events)**

Links for joining will be sent after registration.



Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) Credits have been applied for.

If you have questions, please contact your local Extension agent or the K-State Northwest Research and Extension Center at 785-462-6281.

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



More information at [www.agmanager.info/events](http://www.agmanager.info/events)

# FARM AND RANCH TRANSITION CONFERENCES

## WHAT



Join Kansas State University Department of Agricultural Economics' Office of Farm and Ranch Transition and K-State Research & Extension for a conference to help prepare for the transition to the next generation. This conference is for any farm family in any stage of planning for a transition.

## WHO

Featuring Keynote Speaker

### SHANNON FERRELL

*Oklahoma State University professor and agricultural law specialist*

And a full day of other informational sessions!



## WHEN & WHERE



### CONFERENCE DATES & LOCATIONS

March 6, 2024 → Garden City, KS

March 7, 2024 → Great Bend, KS

March 8, 2024 → Manhattan, KS

\$60/per person registration cost  
Due March 1

**REGISTER** at [agmanager.info/events](http://agmanager.info/events)



**KANSAS STATE**  
Agricultural Economics

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