

# WALNUT CREEK EXTENSION DISTRICT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## JANUARY 2026

### Welcome Kendyl

Welcome Kendyl Wells to the Walnut Creek District - Lane County office. Kendyl will be serving as the Office Professional in the Dighton Office.



#### A note from Kendyl:

I am an Indiana native but moved to Kansas almost two years ago with my husband, Bailey Wells. I am no stranger to western Kansas though, I have family in Ness County!

My husband and I traveled here with our two cattle dogs Lyla & Nova after living in a camper for almost two years in Indiana. I own a photography business - Kendyl G. Photography - where I focus on capturing rodeo, agriculture, family, and senior portraits.

In my free time you can find me helping with harvest, wearing out our energetic dogs, editing photos, starting a home project, or traveling to a rodeo or photo session.

K-State Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Language access requests and reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means of communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, and American Sign Language), may be requested by contacting the event contact, Walnut Creek Extension District, four weeks prior to the start of the event at 620-397-2806 or email [lnote@ksu.edu](mailto:lnote@ksu.edu). Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information, will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request.”

[www.walnutcreek.ksu.edu](http://www.walnutcreek.ksu.edu)

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)
- Kendyl Wells, Office Professional - [kgwells@ksu.edu](mailto:kgwells@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 Comm. Wellness - [kbschmidt@ksu.edu](mailto:kbschmidt@ksu.edu)
- Randa 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 Ext. Agent - [jaredp11@ksu.edu](mailto:jaredp11@ksu.edu)
- Berny Unruh, Office Professional - [bunruh@ksu.edu](mailto:bunruh@ksu.edu)

# Family Meals in a Snap



Join us for a fun and practical session on how to make family meals easier, healthier, and less stressful!

This class is perfect for anyone interested in learning how to prepare and consume healthy meals at home.

## What You'll Learn:

- Quick and healthy meal planning tips
- How to stretch your grocery budget
- Creative ways to use leftovers
- Families will leave with supper to-go for 6

Date: Saturday January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Ness County Fairgrounds 4-H Building

Get Registered to attend: Stop in our office at 503 S. Penn. \$15.00/family due at sign-up.

Deadline to register is Monday January 12th.

\*6 family minimum. If class is cancelled, money will be refunded\*

**KANSAS STATE** Extension  
UNIVERSITY Walnut Creek District

K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means for communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, and American Sign Language) may be requested by contacting the event contact Kristen Schmidt two weeks prior to the start of the event at 785-798-3921 or [kbschmidt@ksu.edu](mailto:kbschmidt@ksu.edu). Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request.

For additional information contact Kristen at 785-798-3921  
or find additional information [here](#)



**KANSAS STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

Extension  
Walnut Creek District

## LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

LIEAP can help pay your home heating bills!

Applications accepted  
**Jan. 20, 2026—  
March 31, 2026**

Applications must be received by DCF  
by 5 p.m. on March 31, 2026.

### Qualifying households must:

- **not exceed household income limits**
- **be personally responsible** for the heating fuel costs payable either to the landlord, utility company, or a fuel vendor



Learn more about LIEAP  
and apply online at  
[LIEAP.dcf.ks.gov](http://LIEAP.dcf.ks.gov).

### INCOME GUIDELINES

Persons living at address	Maximum gross monthly income
1	\$ 1,956
2	\$ 2,644
3	\$ 3,331
4	\$ 4,019
5	\$ 4,706
6	\$ 5,394
7	\$ 6,081
8	\$ 6,769
each additional	\$ 688

Funding provided by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Office of Community Services - Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

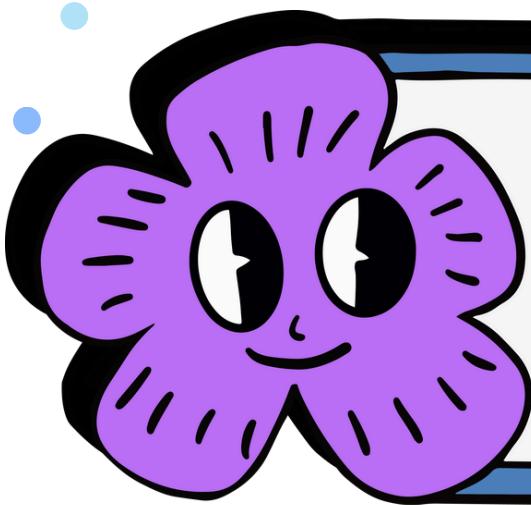
For more information or assistance in applying contact Kristen Schmidt, Family and Community Wellness Agent, at 785-798-3921.



# 4-H Club Day will be Saturday, February 21st at the Ness City High School

The public is encouraged to come listen to the 4-H kids share their project talks, demonstrations, public speaking, music and talent.

A full schedule will be posted the week of 4-H Club Days  
@ <https://www.walnutcreek.k-state.edu/4-h/club-days.html>



## Visual Arts Fun Day

Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup> Ness County Fairgrounds

9:30am to 3:30pm

Come and Go Style ~ Come for however long works for your schedule

There will be:

Scrapbook Projects

Button Art Projects

Clay Crafts and Painting

## Save the Date

**4-H Day with the  
Women Wildcat's Basketball  
Sunday, March 1st  
1:00pm  
vs  
Iowa State Cyclones  
More Information  
Coming SOON!**



## GIVE THE JOY OF 4-H CAMP THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Looking for a meaningful holiday surprise? Register your child for 4-H camp and get a printable certificate to tuck into a stocking or place under the tree!



Registration for the Hays Conference is due **MONDAY, January 12, 2026**



K-State Ag Profitability Conferences: Making "Cents" of a Shifting Ag Economy

**Thursday, January 15, 2026**

**8:30 am - 3:00 pm**

K-State Ag Research Center, 1232 240th Ave.  
Hays, KS 67601

\$10.00 registration per person - Register by January 12, 2026

**Tuesday, February 3, 2026**

The Refinery, 3122 Cecil Drive  
Garden City, KS 67846  
\$10.00 registration per person

For more information, dates/locations, speakers bio and to register, go to  
[www.AgManager.info/profitability](http://www.AgManager.info/profitability)

Farmers and ranchers are no strangers to adversity, but today's challenges are testing the resilience of Kansas agriculture. Ongoing trade disputes and tariffs have disrupted markets and reduced export opportunities, driving crop prices lower while input costs for seed, fertilizer, and equipment remain high. The result is tighter margins and tougher decisions for many Kansas producers.

This program will provide an overview of the current farm financial situation and explore strategies to manage expenses, monitor markets for pricing opportunities, and make the most of safety nets programs like crop insurance and government commodity programs. Specialists will also discuss:

- Trends in Kansas land values
- Tools for managing farm stress
- Considerations for retirement or transitioning the farm to the next generation

# Cover Your Acres

## Winter Conference

### Cover Your Acres Winter Conference registration is open!

Join us for both Crop Production and Farm Business topics!  
Register to attend: <http://northwest.ksu.edu/CoverYourAcres>

Cost to attend (if registered by Jan 14):

Jan 20- \$60, Jan 21- \$55 and \$80 for both.

Same program offered each day.

For additional information about the specific topics, speakers,  
and sponsorship: [https://www.wkrec.org/events/  
cover\\_your\\_acres/](https://www.wkrec.org/events/cover_your_acres/)



**Cover Your Acres**  
Winter Conference  
January 20-21, 2026  
The Gateway in Oberlin, KS

*Crop Production Topics:*

- Meeting Crop Nutrient Needs in Lean Economic Times
- Early Experiences with Targeted Herbicide Applications in Kansas
- Considerations for Intensifying Crop Rotations
- Weed Control in Crop Rotations
- Incorporating Forages Into Dryland Rotations

*Farm Business Topics:*

- 2026 Crop Market Outlook & Strategies
- Navigating the 2026 Crop Insurance Decision, with SCO and ECO
- Top 5 Legal Issues Farmers Don't Think About But Should
- How Are Crop Prices Affecting Lease Arrangements?

*Join Us For*  
New ideas, research updates and relevant information to apply to your operation in northwest Kansas and the Central High Plains

*Registration and Details*  
[www.northwest.ksu.edu/CoverYourAcres](http://northwest.ksu.edu/CoverYourAcres)  
If registered by January 14, the cost is \$60 for Jan 20, \$55 for Jan 21, and \$80 for both days.  
Walk-in registration is \$80 per day.



**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

<https://www.womengrowthefarm.com/>



MANHATTAN, KS | FEBRUARY 12TH & 13TH

## Winning the Game Grain Marketing Webinars

Monday, January 26, at 12 Noon

<https://www.agmanager.info/events/winning-game-grain-marketing-webinars>

This webinar is by Zoom. There is no fee BUT registration is required. Register for the January 2026 update of this monthly series at the link above.

(If you are unable to attend the live meeting, a recording of the presentations will be available the following day).

Volatile grain markets may provide Kansas farmers and agribusiness with the opportunity to price 2026 crops at or above breakeven costs. This webinar will help Kansas farmers develop effective 2026 grain marketing plans for Kansas crops. This webinar will be presented by Daniel O'Brien and Guy Allen from Kansas State University.