

# 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.

[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
- Chelsey Shapland, 4-H Program Assistant - cshapland@ksu.edu
- Kendyl Wells, Office Professional - 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
- Kristen Schmidt, Family Comm. Wellness - kbschmidt@ksu.edu
- Randae Rufenacht, Office Professional - 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
- Berny Unruh, Office Professional - bunruh@ksu.edu

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. 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."

# 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**  
UNIVERSITY

Extension  
Walnut Creek District

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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](https://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.





**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://www.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.