

WALNUT CREEK EXTENSION DISTRICT

July 2025

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

Donnis Maughlin, Office Professional
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

Kristen Schmidt, Family Community
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

County Fair Dates

Click here for Fair Schedules

July 16-19 - Lane County

July 22-26 - Ness County

July 29-Aug. 2 - Rush County

July Dates - It's all about Fair

4 - Closed - Celebrate our Independence

7 - Lane and Ness 4-H Fair pre-entries and forms
DUE by Noon

14 - Lane Co 4-H Clothing, Photography judging

15 - Rush County 4-H Entries due on
Fairentry.com and paperwork in office.

16 - Lane County Fair exhibits checked in

18 - Lane Co. Fair Parade down Long Street - 7 pm

19 - Lane Co. 4-H Livestock Sale - 4 pm

20 - Lane Co. Fair check out and Clean up

21 - Ness Co. 4-H Clothing, photography judging

22 - Ness Co. Fair Parade - 6 pm

23 - Ness Co. Fair Indoor Exhibits checked in

24 - Ness Co. Fair Livestock weighed in

26 - Rush Co. Fair Set up - 8 am

26 - Ness Co. 4-H Livestock Auction/Awards-1 pm

27 - Ness Co. Fair Clean up

28 - Rush Co 4-H Clothing, Photography, Fiber
Arts judging - 9 am

30 - Rush Co Fair exhibits check in/Food Auction

August 2 - Rush Co 4-H Premium Auction - 5 pm

August 3 - Rush Co Fair Clean up - 8 am

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. Language access requests and reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means of communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, 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.



School Changes:

With the changes in school schedules for LaCrosse and Dighton, be on the lookout for extra youth programming to help fill the Out of School Times. More information will be coming soon!



It's County Fair Prep Time

County Fair time will be here before we know it;
are you ready to be part of these great community events?

COUNTY FAIR DATES:

JULY 16-19 LANE COUNTY

JULY 22-26 NESS COUNTY

JULY 29-AUG. 2 RUSH COUNTY


A county fair is an event where there are displays of goods and animals, amusements rides, games, and competitions.

The county fair is a time

to come together and celebrate the harvest, embrace agriculture and support your local 4-H Youth! In general most county fairs have events and activities for the young and old and everyone in between.

So the question is how can you get involved?



- 
- Support 4-H and Fair Board with a financial donation.
 - Come out and enjoy the events.
 - Plan to eat lunch and supper with the local vendors - FREE Meals and Ice Cream Socials
 - Exhibit - grow something, bake something, make something - Win a Ribbon!
 - Market Wheat Show- Share your 2025 Wheat Harvest Story with the community
 - Create a parade float (Lane and Ness)
 - Volunteer your time to help run an amusement ride or game, or help with the judging process
 - Come out and watch the livestock shows and the evening entertainment.
 - Play mud volleyball, cornhole, or be a part of the tractor pull
 - Don't miss out! It's the best thing happening in your community that week!



Come Join the Fun,

Volunteer &

be part of a tradition!

When do we have to enter our exhibits?



The indoor exhibits at our 3 county fairs need to be checked in on

Wednesday morning the week of the fair.

Lane Co.- July 16 from 8 am to 9 am

Ness Co. - July 23 from 8 am to 10 am

Rush Co - July 30 from 8 am to 10 am

OR Tuesday evening from 6-8 pm

What kinds of things can we bring to the fair?

Grab a fair book or copy of rules at the local Extension Office or check our website.

- Baked Goods (cakes, breads, pies, cookies)
- Food Preservation (jams, jellies, pickles, etc.)
- Quilts and other Fiber Arts (knitting, crochet, cross-stitch, weaving, etc)
- Arts - (painting, drawings, ceramics, leather, jewelry, wreaths, Legos, other crafts)
- Photography
- Home grown Garden Products
- Crops and Market Wheat Show
- Largest Zucchini
- Home grown Flowers
- Woodworking Projects

I don't really know that much about the county fair? Who can help me?

The county fairboard works hard all year long to get ready for the County Fair. They are volunteer members of our community and they can help, answer questions.

Lane Fair Board President: Katie Riffle

Ness Fair Board President: Steve Nichepor

Rush Fair Board President: Mark Goodheart

Lane Amusement: Chanda Bush

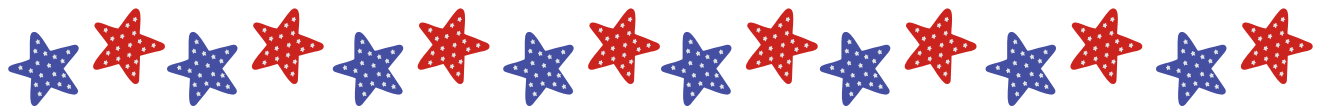
Ness Amusement: Jeff Young

Rush Amusement: Dee Bartonek

The County Fair Boards can help you with the details to events and activities that are not 4-H related.

The local Extension Office staff can help you with many of your exhibit questions and the rules to follow when exhibiting.

Your 4-H questions can be answered by checking the fair book and reading through your fair packet. Don't be afraid to ask questions!



I DON'T KNOW IF I REALLY WANT MY EXHIBIT TO BE "JUDGED"?

Yes, the exhibits at the county fair are evaluated or judged but that is part of the fun. The other option would be for us to just display all the exhibits or projects and everyone would get the same "award". In open class, the items in each class are placed first, second and third.

4-H members have the opportunity to sit down with a judge and have a "consultation" about the project they completed. This is an opportunity for our youth to learn from another person (who was hired for their expertise) and we do ask the judge to decide what placing or rating they will give the project. We are not judging the child. We also ask the judge to share ideas with the members that might give them ideas on how to do something differently.

4-H is all about "Learning by Doing" and 4-H families will agree that they learn a little more each year.

KANSAS 4-H WHEAT VARIETY PROGRAM

The 2025-26 4-H Wheat Variety Plot program begins in the fall of 2025 with planting and wraps up in the fall of 2026 with the State 4-H Wheat Variety Plot displays at the Kansas State Fair. The 4-H Wheat Variety Plot program is open to all 4-H members enrolled in the 4-H Agronomy project who have an interest in studying how different wheat variety perform in their part of the state. 4-H members are encouraged to work closely with their local agriculture agent and/or an adult mentor. The 4-H Wheat Varieties are meant to be hands-on experience for youth and set in a similar way as local Extension Wheat Variety plots.

Members should contact their local Extension Office by July 15 for information with enrollments due to the State 4-H Office by August 1, 2025, in order that we can have enough seed and metal signs available for Extension agents and leaders to pick up at the designated locations in the fall. Extension Agents should complete registration here. New participants will receive a free large plot sign and five individual variety signs. Returning members receive updated wheat variety names on sticky paper to place on existing metal signs. These will be distributed when the wheat is picked up.

There will be no cost for the program in 2025-26 since the five varieties are again being sponsored by commercial companies.

This year's participants who are getting ready to harvest their plots should be planning their county fair display for possible qualifying for the Kansas State Fair entry in the 4-H and FFA Showcase Building.

Wheat Variety Displays can also be entered in the 4-H Wheat Expo August 7th in South Hutchinson.

KANSAS 4-H WHEAT EXPO - THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2025

Where: South Hutchinson Community Building

The wheat expo will be a fun, educational and hands-on program for all Kansas 4-H members, siblings, parents, grandparents, and KSRE Extension staff. You do not have to be enrolled in crops/plant science projects to participate. 4-H members enrolled in Food and Nutrition, Photography and Field Crops are encouraged to participate.

The Kansas 4-H State Wheat Expo is a wheat fun day showcasing all things wheat. Lunch and refreshments are sponsored, and tours will be available. The tours this year are Dillon Nature Center and Kauffman Seed.

For more information and the registration link:

<https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/project-based-events/conferences-events/wheat/>



OPEN CLASS MARKET WHEAT SHOW ENTRY DUE JULY 10TH

Entries for the Open Class Market Wheat Shows are due in the Dighton, Ness City or LaCrosse Extension Office or participating elevators by **Thursday, July 10th**, so they can be tested and ready for display at each of the county fairs.

The entry consists of a 5 lb sample of wheat grown by the exhibitor. An Official Crop Data Card must be completed. **NOTICE: The judging criteria has changed. NO points will be given for the variety selection, so the total possible points will be 750 points.**

THE IMPORTANCE OF SUNSCREEN

Spending time outdoors during the summer is favorite pastime for many individuals and families. When outdoors, it's important to stay sun safe and understand how ultraviolet (UV) rays can damage skin cells and how to best protect yourself and loved ones from harmful rays.

Make it a habit before applying make-up or brushing your teeth, to apply sunscreen every day. All individuals can benefit from applying sunscreen. If wearing sandals or shoes that do not cover the whole foot, apply sunscreen to your feet as well.



Kristen Schmidt
Family and Community
Wellness Agent
kbschmidt@ksu.edu

Choose broad spectrum, water resistant 30 SPF sunscreen. Broad spectrum sunscreen will help protect from UVB and UVA rays. The Sun Protection Factor (SPF) indicates how well a sunscreen protects against sunburn.

Do not use expired sunscreen. If you're using enough sunscreen daily and when in the sun, you should not have any trouble utilizing a tube or can before it has expired.

Use enough sunscreen to cover all exposed areas. Focus on the face, nose, ears, shoulders, feet, hands, back, arms, and even the back of your knees. Wide brimmed hats are encouraged, but if you're not wearing a hat, be sure to apply sunscreen to your scalp.

Apply sunscreen 15 to 30 minutes before going outdoors. It takes time for your skin to absorb the sunscreen to protect you.

Reapply sunscreen at least every 2 hours. When swimming, sweating, or drying off with a towel, apply more often. With each application, use at least a golf ball sized amount.

Thoroughly rub in spray sunscreen. Simply spraying sunscreen on your body is not enough to ensure protection. Spray the sunscreen onto the body, out of wind, and rub it in. Avoid inhaling spray sunscreen and do not spray the sunscreen near your face and mouth. Spray the sunscreen into your palm, then apply it to your face and ears.



HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!





Jared Petersilie
Agriculture
Extension Agent
jaredp11@ksu.edu

ANNUAL FORAGE INSURANCE

I have recently discussed risk management options, namely through insurance and price risk. Today is much the same. Producers know what crop insurance is, but with cattle continuing to set new records and our typical grain crops barely covering their break evens, a logical move is to look at forage crop options. Most crop insurance products are based on measuring the production. While we can measure some forage production, it is much harder to do, especially if grazing is incorporated. Annual Forage Insurance uses an index for rainfall. This is based on rainfall for a given region and these zones are found online easily.

Annual Forage Insurance is growing in use by producers, mainly in Central and Western KS, but Rush and Ness county acres are particularly lower than neighboring counties.

Much like typical crop coverage, producers need to select a coverage level. Many producers select 70-75% coverage and this could be kept the same. However instead of looking at the APH, or actual production history, this index is based on the percentage of moisture that falls in your given region. AFI is very similar in nature to Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage (PRF). So, for example if you receive 60% of the historic average rainfall, the policy will pay back. Average rainfall amounts received will determine the payout based on the level selected. If we were to get a 'wet' season, and we get 90% of the average, no payments would be expected. The growing season is broke into windows and rainfall is measured in 2 month increments. So, while any 2 month dry spell can be devastating to a growing crop, this tool recognizes that and that is how the policy calculates the extent of the loss. The rainfall data is collected by NOAA, as not all regions have equal numbers of weather stations.

Every insurance policy does have a cost and producers need to weigh that cost against the indemnities. The deadline for crops intending to be planted this fall (Triticale, dual purpose wheat, etc) has a July 15 sign-up deadline. Multi-peril crop insurance is not available to all crops, so this is a simple alternative. It is also an alternative if you are looking at deficit irrigation or if you are growing a crop that you do not want to use an allotment for, this can help offset the potential loss. In this case you may not want a reduction in the APH, or as with forage crops-it might not exist at all.

As with all farm program information that KSRE has available, contact a local office, or go to the AgManager.info website. All of us at the Walnut Creek Ext. Dist hope the producers of the area have a safe and bountiful wheat harvest.

PINK EYE

Summer and early fall are the peak seasons for pinkeye, although it has been reported in all seasons. It is also the time when environmental factors that influence the development of pinkeye are at their peak. There are different types of *M. bovis*, and several different kinds within each type. Each type of *M. bovis* has slightly different physical properties, yet all are capable of causing disease. (More on the page 7)



Pink Eye (Continued)

The clinical appearance and rate of progression of the disease will vary from animal to animal. The earliest indication of a problem is an increase in tearing and squinting. Animals will have excessive wetness around their eye and down the side of their face and be reluctant to open their eye. When examined more closely, the inside lining of the eyelid (conjunctiva) and the white portion of the eye (sclera) may appear red and puffy. As the disease progresses the clear portion of the eye (cornea) may become cloudy or white. An ulcer (erosion) may develop in the cornea. This is when the eye is most painful. Healing occurs when blood vessels move into the normally clear cornea and the healthy corneal cells slide across the ulcer. If the ulcer is severe and deep enough, the eye can rupture. Most infected eyes will heal in 3 to 6 weeks. Eyes that have been severely affected will have a white scar on the surface. These scars may fade over time. Eyes that have ruptured may become blind and extremely disfigured.

Face flies are a very important factor in the spread of the disease within a herd. Flies pick up and spread the organism on their legs while feeding on the area around the eyes. Calves are much more susceptible to pinkeye than older cows or bulls and animals that have been infected once are not likely to develop the disease again for more than a year. Environmental factors such as UV light, wind, dust, tall pasture grasses and weeds will lead to a higher rate of disease within a herd.

Prevention of IBK is difficult because of the different types of *M. bovis*, its ability to change from one type to another, and the predisposing environmental conditions. Immunity to one type does not mean the animal is immune to the other types, so it is able to evade the immunity that the animal may have to infection. Older animals have a higher level of natural immunity, so vaccination can be an effective method of prevention, but experimental work has shown that animals vaccinated with one type of *M. bovis* will be immune to that type but not the others. Many vaccines on the market today contain several types of *M. bovis*. Although these vaccines have been shown to be partially protective, they may not be completely protective. Blackleg vaccines with pinkeye protection will cover one or two strains. Stand alone pinkeye vaccines will cover a few more strains. Working with your local vet if and when pinkeye outbreaks occur can lead to vaccines being developed for your particular strain of the virus.

Fly control is one of the most important prevention factors. Insecticide impregnated ear tags in both ears has been shown to decrease the spread of disease. Insecticide sprays, pour-ons, dusters, back oilers, feed thru products, and rotational grazing can all be used to decrease fly populations. Antibiotic therapy and control of environmental factors are the best methods of treatment. Eye drops or ointments are one method of treatment for animals being shown or with constant contact.

Early treatment is key and that can be handled in many ways. After treatment, covering the eye with a cloth patch glued over the face will help to make the animal more comfortable by decreasing the sunlight irritation. More importantly, it helps to decrease the spread of the disease by preventing flies from getting to the infected eye secretions. Good management practices may increase the rate of healing and decrease the spread of infection. Separating affected cattle and providing them a shaded area, with accessible food and water, lowers the animals stress and allows them to heal more efficiently.



POST-HARVEST VOLUNTEER WHEAT CONCERNS

Harvesting lodged wheat often presents challenges, and this year may result in higher-than-normal levels of volunteer wheat. If not properly managed, volunteer wheat can pose serious risks to fall-planted wheat fields. One major concern is that volunteer wheat serves as a host for the wheat curl mite, which spreads the wheat streak mosaic virus complex, including wheat streak mosaic, High Plains wheat mosaic virus, and Triticum mosaic virus.

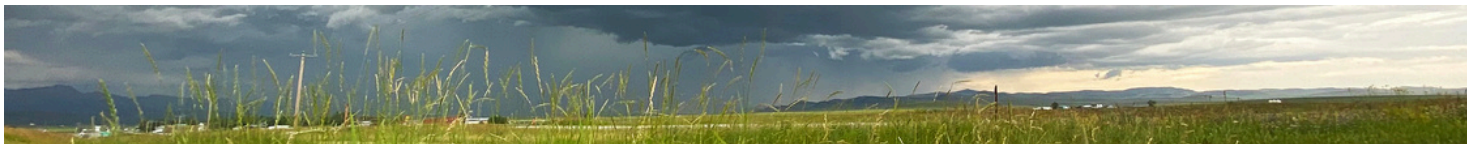
This issue was a significant factor in many central and western Kansas fields this year in the 2025 Kansas Wheat Plot Tours. While it's impossible to prevent all kernel losses, especially in areas with severe lodging, controlling volunteer wheat after harvest remains critical.

Key Points to Remember:

- Lodging can be caused or worsened by root and crown diseases, insect damage, excessive nitrogen, and varieties with weak straw strength.
- Lodged wheat holds moisture, delaying harvest and increasing the risk of test weight loss, grain and chaff mold, mycotoxin development, and pre-harvest sprouting.
- When the crop is mature, prompt harvest is essential to avoid further grain quality deterioration and storm damage.
- While some harvest loss is unavoidable, especially in lodged areas, controlling volunteer wheat is essential to prevent disease transmission and protect future crops.



Lacey Noterman
District Director
Agronomy/Horticulture
lnote@ksu.edu



KANSAS MESONET OVERVIEW

The Kansas Mesonet is a network of weather stations rooted in K-State Research and Extension, originally established in 1986 at KSRE research centers. Since then, the network has expanded through partnerships with agencies like the Kansas Water Office, Big Bend and Equus Beds Groundwater Management Districts, and the USDA Soil Climate Analysis Network.

Stations are strategically placed in long-term sites following World Meteorological Organization (WMO) exposure standards, often on private land with landowner permission. They are located where automated weather data is limited. Each site is equipped with research-grade instruments, with some also featuring 10-meter wind sensors.

Technicians from the K-State Weather Data Library inspect each site twice a year—in spring and fall. These visits involve checking and maintaining sensors, data loggers, communication systems, and power supplies. Faulty equipment is promptly replaced and either repaired or recycled. Site conditions, including fencing, vegetation, and surrounding area, are also reviewed to ensure data accuracy.

Check it out: <https://mesonet.k-state.edu/>

K-STATE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION WALNUT CREEK DISTRICT



MARKET WHEAT SHOW

2025 Sponsors

Midland Marketing Group

Bartlett Grain Company

Mid State Farmers Coop

Cooperative Grain & Supply

DE Bondurant Grain Company, Inc

Garden City Coop, Inc - Dighton

Entry Rules

- Its FREE to enter
- Complete the crop information card
- Submit 5 pounds of combine run wheat in a gallon size bag
- Only one entry per variety or blend grown
- Judging criteria: Test Weight, Dockage, Shrunken and Broken Kernels, and Protein
- Results will be on display at the Lane, Ness, and Rush County Fairs
- Leave samples & cards at participating elevators or at the Extension Offices in Dighton, Ness City, and LaCrosse by Thursday, July 10th!



Please have samples turned in by:

Thursday, July 10th

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



Contact Us:

Lane County
620-397-2806

Ness County
785-798-3921

Rush County
785-222-2710