

# K-State Extension Walnut Creek Extension District

**JUNE 2026**

## INTRODUCING HALLE !



Hello! My name is **Halle Young**, and I recently graduated from Fort Hays State University with my Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education. I grew up in the Kiowa County 4-H program, where I spent over a decade

learning, leading, and discovering my passion for agriculture. Through 4-H, I gained lifelong skills in leadership, communication, and community service, and those experiences are a major reason I chose a career in agricultural education.

My years in 4-H and FFA shaped who I am as an educator and fueled my desire to help youth grow through hands-on learning. I am excited to serve as a Summer Intern and to work with youth across the district through 4-H, agriculture, and community programs. I look forward to creating meaningful learning experiences, supporting local families, and giving back to the programs that helped shape me.

This fall, I will begin my first year teaching Vocational Agriculture in Hoxie, and I am grateful for the opportunity to continue supporting young people as they explore agriculture, leadership, and their own potential.



## 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



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# IMPORTANT DATES



## June

- 1 - Moo-La-La Dairy Fun Class - Rush Ext. Office - 1 - 2:30 pm
- 1 - Babysitting Course- Ness Co Fairgrounds - 9 am - 2 pm
- 2 - Moo-La-La Dairy Fun Class - Ness Co Fairgrounds - 1 - 2:30 pm
- 3-5 - 4-H Discovery Days in Manhattan
- 5 - Moo-La-La Dairy Fun Class - Lane Co. Courthouse - 1 - 2:30 pm
- 6 - Rush County 4-H County-wide Meeting - Rush Co Fairgrounds
- 8 - YQCA for 4-H Youth - Rush Ext Office - 10 am
- 9 - YQCA for Youth - Lane Co. Courthouse - 10 am
- 9 - Grain Grinding - Lane Co Courthouse - 1 - 3 pm
- 10 - Grain Grinding - Rush Co Ext Office - 1-3 pm
- 11 - YQCA for Youth - Ness Co Fairgrounds - 10 am
- 11 - Grain Grinding - Ness Co Fairgrounds - 1 - 3 pm
- 10-12 - 4 Clover Camp - Dodge City - Register by May 22
- 15 - Blender Bike Snacks - Ness Co Fairgrounds - 1 - 4 pm
- 16 - Blender Bike Snacks - Rush Co Ext. Office - 1 - 4 pm
- 17 - Blender Bike Snacks - Lane Co Courthouse - 1 - 4 pm
- 18-19 - Cedar Bluff Overnight Camp - Register by June 1
- 23 - Create a Cover Crop Monster - Rush Co - 10 -11 am
- 24 - Create a Cover Crop Monster - Ness Co - 10 -11 am
- 25 - Create a Cover Crop Monster - Lane Co - 10 -11 am
- 23-25 - Youth Leadership Camp at Ford Co Lake - Register by June 1
- June 30 - Financial Champions - Ness Co - 9:30 am - Noon

## July

- 1 - Financial Champions - Rush Co - 9:30 am - Noon
- 2 - Financial Champions - Lane Co - 9:30 am - Noon

## It's Fair Time!!

Lane County Fair – July 15–18, 2026

[2026 Lane County Fair Schedule](#)

Ness County Fair – July 21–25, 2026

[2026 Ness County Fair Schedule](#)

Rush County Fair – July 29 – August 1, 2026

[2026 Rush County Fair Schedule](#)



Check our  
Walnut Creek website  
for more  
[Fair Information](#)

## Early Weaning

As I am compiling this, we are getting some light rain, had a small shower a day ago, and just had a narrow band of heavy storms thru central Kansas last weekend. Many areas have not had any measurable moisture. We are always thankful for the rain and the drier we get the more thankful we are! However, this recent event came with substantial hail, hard-heavy rain, and plenty of wind, so the long-term aspects of breaking a drought are far from over regardless of how full the gauge was. There are more storm watches in the near future, so hopefully with an active weather cycle we can get wide spread rain over all of western KS, especially in areas dealing with wildfire.



**Jared Petersilie**  
Extension Agent  
Animal Sciences  
jaredp11@ksu.edu

Dr. Waggoner with K-State Extension has put together a study for early weaning. With the on-going drought and record high prices for fly weight calves, we will likely see these calves weaned and marketed much earlier than we would typically expect. In the range states to the north, we have even seen hundreds of baby calves coming to market.

Early weaning is not a term that is well defined, so any number of days that is shorter than what is typically done is considered early, but in general refers to weaning a calf at less than 200 days of age (conventional weaning 180-220 days of age). Calves raised conventionally have a functional rumen at approximately 45 days of age and are capable of using dry feeds. However, various research suggests that 120-150 days of age is optimal for implementing an early program. Early weaning is one of the easiest ways to manage cow nutrient demands and reduces the energy requirements of the cow by 25-30%. This effectively means that the nutrients consumed by the cow that were being used to sustain lactation may now be used to improve cow condition. A study designed to evaluate preconditioning conducted at K-State documented that cow body condition scores improved as calf age at weaning decreased. The cows on this study remained on native grass pastures following weaning and they observed an increase in body condition score of a ½ point over a 60-day period.

While we always strive to maintain the health of calves, keeping these really young calves healthy is even more important. If you think that weaning this summer is a possibility, get 2 rounds of respiratory shots in now and work with your local vet to build a health plan not a response plan. Granted we are far from the daily temperature swings we see in late fall, but the heat can be nearly as stressful as the cold. With our relatively mild winter and spring, the calves born in January and February are probably doing very well and could legitimately be pulled off late May/early June and be in the 120-150 day window. More information can be found online or the [AgToday recording from May 21<sup>st</sup>](#).

**K-State Weed Management Field Day** - Thursday June 18, 2026, 9 am

K-State Agricultural Research Center, 1232 240<sup>th</sup> Ave, Hays, KS

Free Lunch following the program. RSVP at

[https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1Mn68Ec06JFp9Ay?Q\\_CHL=qr](https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1Mn68Ec06JFp9Ay?Q_CHL=qr)



## Remember your Sunscreen

Summer is knocking on the door, which for many people means swimming and gardening and other outdoor activities.

If you work in a field, or those that have outdoor jobs. Seek shade as much as you can, but if you can't find shade, wear a white brim hat and sunglasses to protect those eyes, and wear UPF (Ultraviolet Protection Factor) protective clothing.

Another common term associated with sunscreen for the skin – SPF – stands for Sun Protection Factor. Sunscreens are sold with varying levels of SPF, but the level that one buys – as long as it is 30 SPF or higher – is less important than routinely re-applying protection every two hours while outdoors.

Some things to keep in mind:

- The type of sunscreen one uses – spray, lotion or other – doesn't matter. It's a personal preference.
- Cover as much skin as possible when outside. SPF clothing is one good way to do this, while remaining comfortable
- Use sunscreen all year round. The sun's reflection off snow in the winter can be equally damaging to skin.
- Remember vulnerable spots when applying sunscreen, touch as top of head, tips of ears and back of neck.
- Discard expired sunscreen and keep a fresh tube year-round.



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



## Garden To Do

- Remove sucker growth from fruit trees
- Stop harvesting asparagus so the plant can store energy for next year
- Remove dead foliage from spring-flowering bulbs
- Remove tree stakes that have been in place for at least one year
- Turn compost pile after it cools
- Deadhead flowers
- Remove flower stalks from Peonies and Iris
- Fertilize warm-season lawns such as Zoysia, Bermuda, and Buffalo
- Monitor plants regularly for signs of pests

## Moving Houseplants Outside for the Summer

Houseplants can benefit from spending the summer outdoors once nighttime temperatures stay above 55°F. Start plants in a shaded, protected area and gradually increase their sun and wind exposure over 4–8 weeks to prevent sunburn and leaf drop.

Keep plants watered, as containers dry out faster outdoors. Check soil regularly and water when dry about a half inch below the surface. Sinking pots into the ground or surrounding them with peat moss can help keep roots cool and reduce watering needs. Rotate pots every couple of weeks for even light exposure and healthy growth.

# Walnut Creek Annual Wheat Plot Tour

As wheat harvest rapidly approaches, K-State Research and Extension Walnut Creek District hosted its annual wheat plot tours on Wednesday, May 20, giving producers an opportunity to learn more about wheat varieties and current crop conditions across western Kansas. The tours allowed participants to visit wheat fields in person and gain a firsthand look at how this year's crop is performing before harvest begins. Discussions throughout the day focused on wheat variety selection, agronomic traits, production practices, and wheat disease management.



Speakers for the tour included Kelsey Andersen Onofre, Assistant Professor in the Department of Plant Pathology, Logan Simon, Assistant Professor and Southwest Area Agronomist, and Anthony Zukoff, Instructor of Entomology of Western Kansas.

The first stop was in Rush County at a wheat plot owned and operated by Mark Baus near LaCrosse. The plot featured 18 different wheat varieties for producers to evaluate.

The second stop was in Ness County, at a plot owned and operated by Stephen Nichepor. The site featured 21 different wheat varieties and provided another opportunity to compare crop performance under current growing conditions.

The final stop was in Lane County, at a plot owned and operated by Vance and Louise Ehmke. This plot included 30 wheat varieties along with several triticale varieties.



Tour discussions highlighted the difficult outlook facing much of Western Kansas wheat production this year. Persistent drought, spring freezes, and disease pressure have reduced yield potential across many areas. Concerns include drought stress that reduces kernel size and test weight, freeze damage from spring cold snaps, wheat streak mosaic virus, and an earlier-than-normal harvest due to accelerated crop maturity.

Despite the challenges, some wheat fields across western Kansas continue to show promise, especially in areas that received timely rainfall or where wheat was planted later. Yield potential varies greatly from field to field. The wheat plot tours provided valuable information for producers as they prepare for harvest and make future variety and management decisions. Those unable to attend are still encouraged to visit the plots, as signs remain posted at each location.

For more information about the Wheat Plot Variety Tours, contact Lacey Noterman with K-State Research and Extension Walnut Creek District.

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# K-State for Kids



## EXPLORE, LEARN, CREATE

A new discovery each week.

Who: All Youth completed Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Where: Lane Co Courthouse Comm. Room

**June 5 - Moo-La-La Dairy Fun!** Learn about hardworking farm families who turn nutritious feed into fresh milk - powering your day with dairy goodness. from 1:00 - 2:30 pm taught by Lacey Noterman.

**June 9 - Grain Grinding** - Scratch grains from home for your backyard chickens and bird feeders 1:00 to 3:00pm taught by Jared Petersilie.

**June 17 - Blender Bike Snacks** - Learn about measuring ingredients while blending for better health. 1:00 to 4:00pm, taught by Kristen Schmidt

**June 25 - Create a Cover Crop Monster** - Learn about cover crops, get creative and build your own Cover Crop Monster to take home. Chelsey Shapland will teach this class from 10 -11 am.

**July 2 - Financial Champions** - come have a fun day learning about Money, Savings and Budgeting, 9:30 am to Noon taught by Robyn Trussel.

Please register here:

[https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0GHbdVchGXVnWxU](https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0GHbdVchGXVnWxU)

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# K-State for Kids



**EXPLORE, LEARN, CREATE**  
A new discovery each week.

Who: All Youth completed Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Where: Ness County Fairgrounds

**June 2 - Moo-La-La Dairy Fun!** Learn about hardworking farm families who turn nutritious feed into fresh milk - powering your day with dairy goodness. from 1:00 - 2:30 pm taught by Lacey Noterman.

**June 11 - Grain Grinding** - Scratch grains from home for your backyard chickens and bird feeders 1:00 to 3:00pm taught by Jared Petersilie.

**June 15 - Blender Bike Snacks** - Learn about measuring ingredients while blending for better health. 1:00 to 4:00pm, taught by Kristen Schmidt

**June 24 - Create a Cover Crop Monster** - Learn about cover crops, get creative and build your own Cover Crop Monster to take home. Chelsey will teach this class from 10 -11 am.

**June 30 - Financial Champions** - come have a fun day learning about Money, Savings and Budgeting, 9:30 am to Noon taught by Robyn Trussel

**July 3 - Chalk the Walk**, Downtown Ness City 9:00am

Please register here:

[https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0GHbdVchGXVnWxU](https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0GHbdVchGXVnWxU)

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# K-State for Kids



## EXPLORE, LEARN, CREATE

A new discovery each week.

Who: All Youth completed Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Where: Rush Co Extension Office Backroom

**June 1 - Moo-La-La Dairy Fun!** Learn about hardworking farm families who turn nutritious feed into fresh milk - powering your day with dairy goodness. from 1:00 - 2:30 pm taught by Lacey Noterman.

**June 10 - Grain Grinding** - Scratch grains from home for your backyard chickens and bird feeders 1:00 to 3:00pm taught by Jared Petersilie.

**June 16 - Blender Bike Snacks** - Learn about measuring ingredients while blending for better health. 1:00 to 4:00pm, taught by Kristen Schmidt

**June 23 - Create a Cover Crop Monster** - Learn about cover crops, get creative and build your own Cover Crop Monster to take home. Chelsey will teach this class from 10 -11 am.

**July 1 - Financial Champions** - come have a fun day learning about Money, Savings and Budgeting, 9:30 am to Noon taught by Robyn Trussel.

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