

Walnut Creek Extension District



MARCH 2026



upcoming events

March Dates

- 3 - CropTalk - 12 Noon - on Zoom
- 4- K-State Garden Hour at Noon
- 4 - 4-H Cloverbuds - Dighton - 4:10-5 pm
- 4 - 4-H on the 4th - Horticulture Fun
- 4 - Kristen at Dighton Joy Center - 12 Noon
- 7 - Regional 4-H Day - Dodge City
- 7 - K-State Jr Beef Producer Day - Manhattan
- 9 - Rush Co Community Leaders - LaCrosse
- 10 - CropTalk - 12 Noon on Zoom
- 14 - St. Patrick's Day in Rush Center - 4-H Sponsored games and activities
- 15 - Lane Co 4-H Beef Weigh-in - 2 pm
- 16 - 20 - Spring Break Classes for Youth
- 18 - Kristen @ Ransom Senior Center - Noon
- 19 - Kristen @ Ness Leisure Years - Noon and Wheatview Apts - 1 pm
- 19 - Lacey - Herb Presentation at Ness Leisure Years - Noon
- 19 - YQCA training - Ness - 9 am, Lane - 1 pm
- 19 - Ness Co 4-H Beef Weigh-in - 5 pm
- 20 - Register for Jr Sheep Producer Day
- 20 - YQCA training - Rush Co - 9 am.
- 21 - Super Saturday and NW 4-H Judging in Hays - RSVP by March 16 for Lunch & STEM
- 22 - Rush Co. 4-H Beef Weigh-in - 2 pm
- 22 - Walk Kansas Begins! Sign up here
- 23 - Walnut Creek District Board Meeting
- 26 - Kristen @ Otis Senior Center - Noon
- 27 - Staff Training - Offices Closed 9 am - 2 pm

www.walnutcreek.k-state.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, 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."



KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension
Walnut Creek District

March 22-May 16, 2026

*Walk With Us Toward
A Healthier Tomorrow*

Walk Kansas is a K-State Research and Extension health initiative that promotes personal health and well-being by helping participants adopt healthful lifestyle habits.

For more information contact Kristen Schmidt, Family and Community Wellness Agent, at 785-798-3921 or visit www.walkkansas.org

REGISTER @

WWW.WALKKANSASONLINE.ORG
REGISTRATION IS ACCEPTED MARCH 1ST THROUGH MARCH 27TH

THERE IS A \$10/PERSON ENROLLMENT FEE PER PERSON

YOUTH GRADES 12 AND UNDER-FEE WAIVED WITH DISCOUNT
CODE

(PLEASE CONTACT KRISTEN FOR THE DISCOUNT CODE BEFORE ENROLLING)



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



Easter Eggs



Sometimes eggs are decorated, used as decorations, and hunted at Easter. Here are some safety tips:

- Temperature fluctuation is critical to safety. To reduce Salmonella growth, eggs gathered from laying hens should be refrigerated as soon as possible. After eggs are refrigerated, they need to stay that way. A cold egg left out at room temperature can sweat, facilitating the movement of bacteria into the egg. In addition, any Salmonella in or on the egg will multiply at room temperature. Refrigerated eggs should not be left out more than 2 hours.
- It's not necessary or recommended for consumers to wash eggs. This increases the risk of contamination because the wash water can be "sucked" into the egg through the pores in the shell. Government regulations require that egg processors carefully wash and sanitize USDA-graded eggs using only compounds meeting FDA regulations for processing foods and at temperatures that prevent wash water from being "sucked" into the egg.
- The process of hard-cooking eggs leads to a thin layer of water forming on the cooked egg surface under the shell. The presence of the water provides a favorable environment for bacterial growth, including those which lead to spoilage. Hard-cooked eggs should be refrigerated within 2 hours of cooking and used within a week.
- Dying eggs: After hard cooking eggs, dye them and refrigerate them within the 2 hours mentioned above. Use a food-safe coloring.
- Hunting eggs: If hard cooked eggs have been lying on the ground, they can pick up bacteria, especially if the shells are cracked. If the shells crack, bacteria could contaminate the inside. The total time for hiding and hunting eggs should not exceed 2 hours. Refrigerate and use "found" eggs within 7 days of cooking. Learn more at [USDA Shell Eggs from Farm to Table](#).

Agmanager Tools for Spring

Producers are looking at a calendar and spring planting is just around the corner. For some, crop choice is a matter of rotation for others it is based more on economics. If you are looking at the prospectus of which is the 'least of the evils' the second page of the rental rates survey might be worth checking out.

It is set up for a head-to-head comparison of crop budgets that can compare output costs, expected yields and net returns:

<https://www.agmanager.info/farm-management/land-rental-rates/lease-simulation-tool>

We all have to watch our expenses, and diesel fuel is a common denominator. Crops or cattle, tractors or sprayers, pickups or trucks we all have to fill up at some point. The latest in expected fuel trends can be found here.

<https://www.agmanager.info/machinery/fuel-price-forecasts/diesel-fuel-price-outlook-2026>

With crop prices where they are, trying to stretch fertilizer as far as we can becomes the key issue. If you don't have cattle or livestock to deposit the fertilizer needed, then here is the next best option for determining what product, what form, and when to lock in your next purchase.

<https://www.agmanager.info/production-economics/prices-and-price-forecasts/fertilizer-price-outlook-2026>



Jared Petersilie
Extension Agent
Animal Sciences
Farm Management
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2026 Custom Rates Survey and 2026 Input Costs Survey

The Land Use Survey Office at Kansas State University is seeking feedback for the 2026 Kansas Custom Rates Survey and 2026 Input Costs Survey.

The surveys are voluntary, anonymous and confidential. Please answer any portion of the questionnaires where you have knowledge of in your area during 2025-2026. If you are unable to complete the survey online, but wish to participate, please contact us to receive a written survey or to complete the survey over the telephone.

The surveys will provide reliable, accurate information to Kansas farmers, ranchers and the agricultural community. Each survey should take less than 15 minutes to complete.

2026 Kansas Custom RATES Survey

KDA is seeking feedback on rates paid for agricultural custom work in Kansas, including charges for custom harvesting, land work, haying, feed preparation and machinery rental.

<https://tinyurl.com/custom26>

OR: https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9zgz8qfBBLQILpc

2026 Kansas INPUT COSTS Survey

This survey collects information on input costs in 2025-2026 for Kansas agricultural production, including average costs for fertilizer, herbicide, insecticide, and seed.

Please complete the survey before March 31st

<https://tinyurl.com/input26>

OR: https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bIWjyM3LXy1R090

Call your local Extension Office to sign up for the class you'd like to participate in by MARCH 11th

Spring Break Project Opportunities



Monday
March 16

9:00am - 12:30pm Sewing with Berny in LaCrosse - Rush Co Extension Office

All supplies are provided, \$3.00/person

1:00 to 3:00pm Building Blocks Engineering with Tia and William -
Rush Co Extension Office - No Charge

Tuesday
March 17

9:00am to noon Wild about Wildlife - Ness Co Fairgrounds

No Charge

1:00 to 5:00pm Fun with Foods Ness Co Fairgrounds
Cost \$7.00 each

Wednesday
March 18

9:00am to Noon Fun with Foods Lane Co Fairgrounds

Cost \$7.00 each

1:00pm to 5:00pm Rocketry - Lane Co Fairgrounds
Cost \$ 18.00

Thursday
March 19

10:00am to noon Rush Photography - Rush Co Extension Office

Please bring a SD Card with you

2:00 to 4:00pm Ness Photography - Ness Co Fairgrounds
Please bring a SD Card with you

Friday
March 20

10:00am to 3:00pm Ness Co Fair Grounds

Visual Arts and Fiber Arts

There will be several projects to accomplish throughout the day
\$10 for the day bring a sack lunch.

All classes open to all youth 4-H and Non 4-H participants, from Lane, Ness or Rush Counties.
Call Lane 620-397-2806, Ness 785-798-3921 or Rush 785-222-2710 to Register by March 11th.



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



Join our Kansas Extension Horticulture for K-State Garden Hour every 1st Wednesday. Register at ksre-learn.com/KStateGardenHour



Naturalistic Landscape Design Style: Kansas Perspectives & Flexible Approaches for Every Garden

Wednesday, March 4th 12:00PM -1:00PM CST

Learn how Kansans perceive and implement a naturalistic landscape design style. Join Dr. Cheryl Boyer, Horticulture Extension Specialist, as she highlights flexible approaches to blending native and modern plants, applying landscape design principles that work for any size garden. Gain inspiration and actionable ideas for overcoming the common challenges of creating resilient, beautiful, naturalistic landscapes.



Register Here!



Please register for this free Zoom Webinar at:
ksre-learn.com/KStateGardenHour



Kansas Garden Guide

The Kansas garden Guide is available online at https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/item/kansas-garden-guide_S51
This guide will provide advice and steps needed to achieve a successful home garden.



Kansas Garden Guide



CROptalk

The last two CROptalk broadcasts will be held on March 3rd and March 10th at Noon.
Register at www.bit.ly/KSUCropTalk

CROptalk

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

February 10

Understanding Flex Leases
Robin Reid, K-State Extension Ag Economist

February 17

Available Soil Water At Planting and Related Management
John Hollman, K-State Extension Cropping Systems Agronomist
Augustine Obour, K-State Professor of Soil Science

February 24

Wheat Conditions & Breeding Efforts on Mosaic Viruses
Allan Fritz, K-State Wheat Breeder

March 3

Fungicide Applications in Corn and Sorghum
Rodrigo Onofre, K-State Extension Plant Pathologist

March 10

What's Bugging You? Insects to Watch for in the Field
Anthony Zukoff, K-State Entomologist

Register to attend at
www.bit.ly/KSUCropTalk

Links for joining will be sent after registration.
One Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) Credit per session has been applied for.



Scan me!



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