

K - S T A T E R E S E A R C H A N D E X T E N S I O N

WALNUT CREEK DISTRICT

N O V E M B E R 2 0 2 2

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Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at
K-State Research and Extension!

Don't forget our offices will be closed on November 11th, 24th
and 25th.

LANE COUNTY - DIGHTON

144 S Lane, Courthouse
PO Box 487
Dighton, KS 67839
620-397-2806
866-755-1654 (Toll-Free)

NESS COUNTY - NESS CITY

503 S Pennsylvania Ave
Ness City, KS 67560
785-798-3921
877-798-3921 (Toll-Free)

RUSH COUNTY - LA CROSSE

702 Main St
PO Box 70
La Crosse, KS 67548
785-222-2710
800-460-9079 (Toll-Free)

www.walnutcreek.k-state.edu

find us on Facebook and Twitter at
Walnut Creek Extension District



LACEY NOTERMAN - AG AND NATURAL RESOURCES- CROPS/HORTICULTURE EXTENSION AGENT

K-STATE GARDEN HOUR

K-State Garden Hour is hosted by K-State Research and Extension horticulture staff across the state of Kansas. We hope you'll join us on the first Wednesday of each month at noon for some horticultural refreshment and training. Sessions are recorded and posted here after each event.

Join us for our webinar series. Noon-1pm CST. 45-minute presentation with 15 minutes for questions.

<https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/consumer-horticulture/garden-hour/>

2022 CROP PEST MANAGEMENT SCHOOLS

Save the date to attend one of the 2022 Crop Pest Management Schools. This year, two schools will be offered in the traditional, in-person format on November 30th in Beloit at the First United Methodist Church or December 1st in Grainfield at the St. Agnes Catholic Church Center. The program will begin at 8:00am and end at 5:00pm. A lunch will be provided to all participants. The cost to attend either of the events is \$50 if registered by Nov. 22nd. The cost after Nov. 22nd and at the door will cost \$75.

Topics and Speakers (official schedule is still being finalized):

- Getting the most effective herbicide applications in dry weather, Dr. Sarah Lancaster, K-State Weed Scientist
- Insect pests that we should be on the lookout for in central and western Kansas, Anthony Zukoff, K-State Entomologist
- Stalk rots, ear rots and other dry weather row crop diseases, Dr. Rodrigo Onofre, K-State Row Crop Pathologist
- Weather influences on herbicide applications, Chip Redmond, K-State Asst Climatologist
- Research update and discussion on utilizing cover crops and preemergence herbicides, Dr. Vipin Kumar, K-State Weed Scientist
- Targeting weeds with site specific weed control and weed seed destroyers, Dr. Michael Walsh, Director of Weed Research at the University of Sydney (Australia)
- Look alikes –Is this herbicide damage or another pest/environmental problem, Jeanne Falk Jones, K-State Multi-County Agronomist, Craig Dinkle, K-State Midway District Crop Production Agent, & Sandra Wick, K-State Post Rock District Crop Production Agent




WHAT TO DO WITH THOSE FALLING LEAVES

Beautiful fall leaves have begun to fall from the trees covering lawns. Leaves will continue to falling throughout November. It is very important to remove those leaves from your home lawns.

Scattering of the leaves will not harm your lawn however, excessive cover will prevent sunlight from reaching the turfgrass plants. Turf left in this state for an extended period of time will be unable to make the carbohydrates needed to carry it through the winter.

A few different options for handling fallen leaves include: composting, direct incorporation into gardens, and mulching.

Incorporating leaves directly into gardens is an easy method of making good use of leaves. To do so:

- Use a lawn mower to chop and collect leaves into a bagging attachment
 - Transport leaves to the garden or flower bed and apply a 2-3 inch layer
 - Till the leaves into the soil after spreading
 - Repeat the process every two weeks until the weather is too cold or soil is too wet.
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Another easy and effective option is mulching by mowing the leaves with a mulching mower and letting the shredded leaves filter into the turf canopy. Mulching will be the most effective if done often enough that leaf litter doesn't become thick.

2023 KSU WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE SERIES PROGRAMMING, “THE POWER OF NEGOTIATION AND COMMUNICATION: LAND LEASING STRATEGIES FOR MIDWESTERN WOMEN IN AG”

Dates will include January 18th, January 25th, February 1st, and February 8th. All sessions will begin with dinner at 5:30pm and conclude at approximately 8:30pm. The series will be held at the Peoples Bank and Trust in Ness City at 210 South Kansas Avenue.

This program will be a combination of broadcasted keynote speakers, local speakers, and facilitators to assist in completing the hands-on activities. The goal is for participants to acquire risk management skills they can apply directly to their farming or ranching operations.

More information will be coming soon! Contact Lacey Noterman, Walnut Creek District Ag Agent, at 785-798-3921 or lnote@ksu.edu to receive timely updates.





JARED PETERSILIE- AG AND NATURAL RESOURCES, ANIMAL SCIENCES/FARM MANAGEMENT AGENT

ESTIMATE YOUR WINTER FEED NEEDS

There are a number of feeding estimates available online, but this recent article by Dr. Selk of OSU gives a brief look at the percentages of intake relative to a cows stage of pregnancy, but just as important, includes a barometer of sorts for figuring in the waste that affects our feed resources as well.

Estimating forage usage by cows is an important part of the task of calculating winter feed needs. Hay or standing forage intake must be estimated in order to make the calculations. Forage quality will be a determining factor in the amount of forage consumed. Higher quality forages contain larger concentrations of important nutrients so animals consuming these forages should be more likely to meet their nutrient needs from the forages. Also, cows can consume a larger quantity of higher quality forages.

Higher quality forages are fermented more rapidly in the rumen leaving a void that the animal can re-fill with additional forage. Consequently, forage intake increases. For example, low quality forages (below about 6% crude protein) will be consumed at about 1.5% of body weight (on a dry matter basis) per day. Higher quality grass hays (above 8% crude protein) may be consumed at about 2.0% of body weight.

Excellent forages, such as good alfalfa, silages, or green pasture may be consumed at the rate of 2.5% dry matter of body weight per day. The combination of increased nutrient content AND increased forage intake makes high quality forage very valuable to the animal and the producer. With these intake estimates, now producers can calculate the estimated amounts of hay that need to be available.

Using an example of 1200 pound pregnant spring-calving cows, lets assume that the grass hay quality is good and tested 8% crude protein. Cows will voluntarily consume 2.0% of body weight or 24 pounds per day. The 24 pounds is based on 100% dry matter. Grass hays will often be 7 to 10% moisture.

If we assume that the hay is 92% dry matter or 8% moisture, then the cows will consume about 26 pounds per day on an "as-fed basis." Unfortunately we

also have to consider hay wastage when feeding big round bales. Hay wastage is difficult to estimate, but generally has been found to be from 6% to 20% (or more). For this example, lets assume 15% hay wastage. This means that approximately 30 pounds of grass hay must be hauled to the pasture for each cow each day that hay is expected to be the primary ingredient in the diet.

After calving and during early lactation, the cow may weigh 100 pounds less, but will be able to consume about 2.6% of her body weight (100% dry matter) in hay. This would translate into 36 pounds of "as-fed" hay per cow per day necessary to be hauled to the pasture. This again assumes 15% hay wastage. Accurate knowledge of average cow size in your herd as well as the average weight of your big round bales becomes necessary to predict hay needs and hay feeding strategies.

Big round hay bales will vary in weight. Diameter and length of the bale, density of the bale, type of hay and moisture content all will greatly influence weight of the bale. Weighing a pickup or trailer with and without a bale may be the best method to estimate bale weights.

Utilizing the standing forage in native pastures to supply much of the forage needs during fall and early winter months will reduce hay feeding. Much the same for utilizing stalks, or other crop residue. An appropriate supplementation program will help the cows digest the lower quality roughage in standing forage.

When standing forage is in short supply or covered by snow and ice, hay will become the primary source of feed. The number of days that hay feeding is necessary is hard to predict going into the winter months. Looking back at previous years' records may be the best source of information to help make that determination.

HOW DO YOUR NITRATE LEVELS STACK UP?

Nitrates accumulate in plants during periods of moderate drought because the roots continually absorb nitrate, but very high daytime temperatures inhibit its conversion to amino acids. During a severe drought, lack of moisture prevents nitrate absorption by plant roots. Following a rain, however, the roots rapidly absorb nitrate and accumulate high levels. After a drought-ending rain, it requires at least two weeks before the nitrates will be metabolized to low levels, provided environmental conditions are optimum. Most of the Walnut Creek District has not had these rains, and no one has seen drought ending rain, but the potential for high nitrate still persists, so here are some things to consider. First there is more than one scale used. Different labs measure differently, so look at what they are using. Multiply or divide by 4.43 to convert one scale to the other.

Table 1. Level of forage nitrate (dry matter basis) and potential effect on animals.

ppm Nitrate Ion (NO₃) Affect on Animals

0–3,000 Virtually safe

3,000–6,000 Moderately safe in most situations; limit use for stressed animals to 50% of the total ration.

6,000–9,000 Potentially toxic to cattle depending on the situation; should not be the only source of feed.

9,000 and above Dangerous to cattle and often will cause death.

Nitrate-N (NO₃-N) ppm

0-1000 Safe, non-toxic

1000-2100 Safe for nonpregnant animals, adapt and mix

2100-3390 Limit to less than 50% of ration, do not feed to pregnant animals without diluting

3390 and above Limit to less than 25% of ration, do not feed without diluting

Keep in mind that Nitrogen is a building block for protein. Much like increasing nitrogen will in effect push protein higher in wheat, it will do much the same in forages. Some nitrogen can make feed much higher quality, but then comes the diminishing returns where nitrogen can be toxic. Many producers have elevated levels of nitrogen in their feed, so here are some steps to help minimize the issue.

Dilute With Other Feeds. Based on nitrate analysis, blend high nitrate forage so that the overall diet contains less than 5000 ppm nitrate on a dry basis. After three to four weeks of feeding, the animals normally become adjusted to nitrates and the proportion of high nitrate forage can be increased somewhat.

Supplement Grain. Feeding 2 to 5 pounds of grain or byproduct dilutes the amount of nitrate in the total ration and provides the energy necessary for bacteria to quickly convert nitrite to ammonia. Molasses also can provide needed energy for nitrite reduction but may be cost prohibitive.

Feed a Balanced Ration. Formulate rations to ensure adequate protein, energy, vitamin A and other nutrients. Nitrates may increase the requirement for vitamin A, but excessive supplementation is unjustified. Non-protein nitrogen (urea) may not be well utilized and should not be fed with high nitrate forages.

Do not Feed to Stressed Livestock. Animals that are sick, hungry, pregnant, or lactating have a lower tolerance for nitrates than healthy animals.

Provide Clean Drinking Water. Frequent intake of high quality water is important for optimal rumen fermentation. Analyze the livestock water supply to determine whether it is contributing to the nitrate burden of cattle. Ponds or ditches that collect runoff from feedlots, heavily fertilized fields, septic tanks, or manure piles are likely to have elevated nitrates.

Helpful Websites and links for Producers:

Agmanager.info

KSUBeef.org

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/market-news/livestock-poultry-grain>

https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams_2885.pdf

2022 AG TOUR

The 2022 Ag Tour is officially in the books. We took 43 individuals to Amarillo for the 62nd annual event. The "Ag Tour" is a long standing tradition in our district with destinations ranging from Arkansas to New Mexico and Wyoming to Iowa. On our way to Amarillo we stopped at the Adobe Walls cotton gin in Spearman and Maxwell's Pumpkin Patch just outside of Amarillo. Drought has a wide reaching hold on most of the Central U.S. so the yields in cotton country are severely slashed much like crop yields are here. Our tour host showed us the entire process of ginning cotton from modules and bales arriving to the finished cotton bales being bundled and sampled for USDA grading and sent to a warehouse.

Maxwell's Pumpkin Patch is Agrotourism at its finest. Each year during Halloween and Christmas literally thousands of individuals young and old visit and take part in a wide variety of kids games and events. Petting zoos, bounce pads, apple launcher, walk thru maze, tricycle races, under ground slides, oversized lawn furniture, jungle gyms, and on and on are all available for a days worth of enjoyment. Yes they do have 5 acres of pumpkins, but that pales in comparison to the nearly 80 acres of family entertainment that is available.

On Wednesday we toured the Ag Department at West Texas A&M. The Academic and Research Hall that contains the Ag faculty, classrooms, and Caviness meats lab is a very modern facility that has become well known with the cloning of Prime yield grade 1 carcasses. Our group was able to see the entire meats lab, processing facility, and on site meat market. From there we were able to see the school ranch and feedlot to see and hear about the research that is ongoing. Later that afternoon we visited Timber Creek Vet Service, the home of many embryo transfers, cloned horses, and the proprietor Dr. Gregg Veneklasen. He was also instrumental in the creation of Alpha 1, the initial clone of the yield grade one carcass. A short drive took us to the Palo Duro canyon where we drove to the bottom and explored the park.

Our final day started at the American Quarter Horse Museum. Visitors can see the evolution of not only the Quarter Horse, but the association that shows historical significance to both the directors, the area ranches, and the notable sires. Our final stop was to the Sizemore Museum. This is a private collection of motorcycles, vehicles, and RV's. Many memorable racing artifacts are held as well as the earliest of camping trailers, movie props, and unique vehicles and trailers that have literally have been discovered and refurbished.

Make plans to join us in October of 2023 as we look to make the 63rd trip to destinations unknown...maybe westwardly!!



2022 Ag Tour attendees - Amarillo, TX



CARISSA KLINE - FAMILY & COMMUNITY WELLNESS AGENT

SHICK

There are still appointments available to review your Medicare coverage for 2023. Please call your local Extension Office to schedule your appointment today.

Rush County - 785-222-2710

Ness County - 785-798-3921

Lane County - 620-397-2806

MYSTERY TOUR

It was chilly October 26th morning when the 23 mystery trip travelers met up at Healy Oil in Healy Kansas. Leading the detectives were Carissa Kline, Walnut Creek FCW agent along with program development committee member Louise Ehmke of Lane County. Each carload of detectives received an envelope with a clue to guess the next stop. The first clue took us to the Nature Conservancy's Smoky Valley Ranch where Justin Roemer, ranch manager, shared the history of the ranch, conservation practices as well as taking us near the historic Bison Jump on 12 Mile Creek as well as the historic Pawnee Indian camp and the natural spring. Clue #2 took us to a place where you might find roots or something with baseball ...where else but the Dugout eatery in Grainfield for a delicious lunch.

Then onward to with Clue #3...holy land of stone spikes or it was suppose to read spires which was to the stately and beautiful St. Joseph's Catholic Church in DaMar, Kansas. Thank you to the French Canadians who emigrated to DaMar who built this marvelous stone structure. The stone came from a quarry near Waldo which is 8 miles west of Damar. Such labor and such beauty.

After appreciating the beauty and brisk winds of DaMar the detectives read final clue. It hinted at a fun activity....grape stomping or a lesson in connoisseurship. On we traveled to Shiloh Vineyard and Winery southwest of Wakeeney for lessons in wine tasting and a little history delivered by owner Kirk Johnston. It was a great wine down for a terrific day with the detectives from the Walnut Creek Extension counties of Rush, Ness, Lane and extras from Barton County. It was also a treat all along the the dirt roads and the highways to see the fabulous fall color show. Looking forward to the next Mystery Tour for Walnut Creek Extension.

Louise Ehmke, Program Development Committee member





ROBYN TRUSSEL - 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENT



Clover Connection

STILL TIME TO ENROLL IN 4-H

- With guidance from a caring adult, Kansas 4-H provides a safe environment for youth to explore their interests and passions- their sparks in life! Through our unique partnership with Kansas State University, we are able to provide opportunities for all youth, ages 5-18, including urban neighborhoods, suburban schoolyards, and rural communities. No matter your budget, schedule, or passion, there is a 4-H program for you!

HOW TO ENROLL <https://v2.4honline.com>

1. Sign in with an email you check often and a password you can remember.
2. Follow the prompts until you have hit submit.
3. Contact: 785-798-5020 for help

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- If you would be interested in helping youth grow and learn life skills, We Need You!
- Do you have a hobby or talent that you would like to share with kids? We Need You!
- Do you have an hour a week or maybe a weekend a month to volunteer? We Need You!

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING IDEAS FOR YOUTH

- One item they NEED!
- One item they WANT!
- Something to wear.
- Something to read.



OFFICERS TRAINING

We will host our Annual 4-H Officers training on November 12th at the Ness County Fairgrounds starting at 10:00am and done by noon. Donuts and Juice will be served.. There will breakout sessions for each officer position. Come Learn your role and how you can help your club GROW!





Christmas Gifts for Kids

As the number of weeks to Christmas slowly creeps into the single digits, many parents are already getting a pretty good idea of this year's hottest toys.

Children may be asking for the flashiest and brightest – and by association, often the most expensive – toys this year, but those may not always be the best choice for their long-term growth.

Toys are a means of learning, children need to have hands-on learning to learn how things work and be imaginative to increase their vocabulary. Children even need to break and lose toys to learn how to deal with their emotions. Toys are a way for children to develop and understand the world around them. The hottest toys of the season might help accomplish those developmental goals, but simpler, less expensive options are also good choices.

When a Christmas present can help your child with imagination, imitation, and observational learning and apply it using a model of something that exists in the real world, that is a toy worth its weight in gold. Toys, like books, are a means to engagement. So no matter what you choose for your children this Christmas helping them engage with the gift is beneficial to their growth as well. Help them learn new vocabulary, help them understand real life situations through their toys and spend time helping your child to grow. More information on child development also is available online from K-State Research and Extension at

<https://search.k-state.edu/?qt=Bradford+Wiles&subsiteName=K-State+Research+and+Extension+News&subsiteurl=www.ksre.k-state.edu%2Fnews>



Experiences Are a Great Gift

With a swish of a finger and a click on the mobile phone, it would only take me five minutes to order at least three toys for the kids that would be getting home-delivered within a few days. Wouldn't even need to leave the house. Score!

No. Not really. The kids would be just as happy feeding the ducks or playing at the park – and it's free!

In fact, that money we spend on toys could be much better spent on an experience instead which would be much more valuable in the long run. It could be a family holiday or weekend away, or it could be something simple like tickets to a show, going out on a bike ride and picnic somewhere close by.

Benefits of Experiences

1. Less Clutter in the home and landfill.
2. Seeing the world and learning other cultures.
3. Happiness as a family.
4. Memories made.
5. Better relationships
6. Learning while doing.



Watch for a School Flyer to announce details on upcoming Youth Christmas Craft Events in your community.



EASY CARAMEL APPLES



What you'll need:

- 8-10 apples depending on size
- Skewers for apples
- approximately 22 oz caramels, unwrapped*
- 4 Tbsp heavy whipping cream
- Pinch of salt

Optional Toppings:

- Chopped pecans
- Sprinkles
- Mini M&M's
- Shredded coconut
- Crushed Oreo cookies
- Melted chocolate for drizzling
- Crushed pretzels
- Chopped peanuts

1. If using store-bought apples, you should remove the wax coating first. Dip apples in hot water for a few seconds then rub them with a towel to remove wax. Dry the Apples really well. Remove stems and Insert Sticks into the top of the apples. Tip: refrigerating apples will help the caramel set faster while you prep toppings and melt caramel.
2. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone liner. Prepare toppings so they are ready to use.
3. Heat caramel, cream and a pinch of salt over a double boiler or microwave for a few minutes stirring every 30 seconds until caramel is melted and smooth.
4. Roll apples in caramel, dipping apples sideways to coat almost to the top. We like to leave a little bit of Apple showing on top so you can see what kind of Apple you're picking. Allow excess to drip back into the bowl. Scrape off the bottom of the Apple against the side of the bowl so you don't get too much caramel pooling at the bottom
5. If you see a lot of air bubbles in your caramel start to form or if it gets too thick, then rewarm it slightly. If caramel so too runny, let it cool slightly before using.
6. Immediately after dipping in caramel, roll apples into your toppings or leave them plain if desired. Refrigerate at least 15 minutes or until caramel is set before drizzling with melted chocolate and enjoying.

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