WALNUT CREEK EXTENSION DISTRICT

November 2026

November Dates

2 - Registration for KS Landowner Conference Due
2,9,12,16,18, 23,25,30 - Kristen SCHICK in Ness City
3 - WCED Ag Tour to Lincoln Nebraska
3, 10, 17, 24 - After School 4-H, LaCrosse
3, 10, 17, 24 -Kristen in LaCrosse - SCHICK Appts
4 - Lane County Cloverbuds @ 3:30pm
4, 13, 20 - Kristen in Dighton - SCHICK Appts
5 - Kristen SCHICK Appointments - Call Otis Library
7 - 4-H Officer Training - 10 am-Noon - Ness City
9 - Rush Co 4-H Community Leaders meet
10 - Kansas Landowner Conference - Manhattan
11 - Offices Closed - Veterans Day
14 - Agriculture Career Day - 9 am - Noon - Hays
16 - WCD Extension Board Meeting
19 - Deer Processing Program - Dighton - 6 pm
26 – 27th - Office Closed- Happy Thanksgiving

December Dates

Medicare Part D (SCHICK) Appointments - call Kristen to set up an appointment 785-798-3921
Dec. 10 - Forage Program - Great Bend

Looking Ahead

Offices Closed - December 24, 2026 thru January 1, 2027

Walnut Creek District board voted to hire a part time program assistant to be based in the LaCrosse office. Find Info Here

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 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

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."

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Extension
Walnut Creek District

We're Hiring

Are you looking for a flexible, part-time opportunity to make a difference in your local communities? K-State Extension Walnut Creek District is looking for a Program Assistant to join our team!

Walnut Creek District Program Assistant

- **Location: Rush County Extension Office, LaCrosse, KS**
- **Hours: 1,200 hours per year**
- **Schedule: Hours are negotiable**
- **Benefits: KPERS and Life Insurance**
- **Position: Open until filled**

If you enjoy working with people, supporting educational programs, and making a positive difference in your community, we'd love to hear from you!

APPLY NOW

Job description and application available at :
https://www.walnutcreek.k-state.edu/
Questions? Contact Lacey Noterman, Walnut Creek District Director
620-397-2806 or lnote@ksu.edu

K-State Extension, Walnut Creek District is an equal opporutniy provider and employer.

Kristen Schmidt
Family and
Community Wellness
kbschmidt@ksu.edu

National Diabetes Month

November is National Diabetes Month. This is a time to bring focus to diabetes and to take action to prevent diabetes health problems. Diabetes is a disease that occurs when your blood glucose is too high. It affects about 38 million Americans, including adults and youth. Diabetes can damage the eyes, kidneys, nerves, and heart.

Taking charge of your health may help you to prevent diabetes health problems. Here are some tips to get started:

- Know your risk for developing diabetes
- Manage your blood glucose, blood pressure, and cholesterol levels
- Take small steps toward healthy habits
- Take your medicines on time
- Reach or maintain a healthy weight
- Take care of your mental health
- Work with your health care team

Walnut Creek District will be offering a Dining with Diabetes class in January in Ness City. This will consist of a series of four classes, each 2 hours long, that includes learning, demonstrations, physical activity and tasting healthy foods. The program's focus is to help individuals learn strategies to lessen the health risks of diabetes.

The program is designed for people with diabetes and their family members, caregivers, and support persons.

For more information or to sign up, please contact Family and Community Wellness Agent Kristen Schmidt at 785-798-3921.

Medicare Part D Open Enrollment

Open enrollment for Medicare Part D (Prescription Drug Coverage) begins October 15th and ends December 7th. Medicare drug plans change yearly, so now is the time to compare drug plans to find the best plan to meet your needs. K-State Extension can navigate you through the comparison and enrollment process from start to finish.

As a trained SHICK (Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas) Volunteer, I can educate and assist you one on one in making an unbiased, informed decision best for you. Appointments are available in Ness City, LaCrosse, Dighton and Otis.

For more information, or to schedule an appointment, please call Family and Community Wellness Agent Kristen Schmidt at 785-798-3921.

When you come to your appointment, you will need to bring your Medicare card, log-in information for your medicare.gov account, your actual prescription bottles and your current Part D prescription card.

Call for an appointment in the Dighton Office 620-397-2806:

November 4
November 13
November 20
December 2
December 4

Call for an appointment in the LaCrosse Office 785-222-2710:

November 3
November 10
November 17
November 24
December 1

Schedule with the Otis Library 785-356-4803 for November 5

Appointments in the Ness City office will be scheduled on days that Kristen is NOT in the Dighton or LaCrosse offices. Please call 785-798-3921 to set up a time to meet with Kristen.

Jared Petersilie
Agriculture Agent
jaredp11@ksu.edu

ARC or PLC

Agricultural producers can begin enrolling in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, which the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently updated to include more than 30 million new base acres.

Now that the base allocation process is complete, producers can make elections and enroll for the 2026 crop year from Sept. 16 through Dec. 11, 2026, and for the 2027 crop year from Nov. 2, 2026, through March 15, 2027. Because eligible acres exceeded the nationwide 30-million-acre cap, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is applying an across-the-board, prorated reduction of 3.69% to all newly allocated base acres.

Producers can now change their election and enroll in ARC-County (ARC-CO) or PLC, which both provide crop-by-crop protection, or ARC-Individual (ARC-IC), which protects the entire farm. Although election changes for 2026 are optional, producers must enroll through a signed contract each year. Existing multi-year contracts ended in 2025, but producers have the option to sign a new multi-year contract for 2026 through 2031. Producers who opt out of a multi-year contract can enroll for the 2027 crop year starting Nov. 2, 2026, through March 15, 2027.

If producers do not submit their 2026 election by Dec. 11, 2026, their election remains the same as their 2025 election for crops on the farm, and the farm is ineligible for payments for the 2026 program year.

K-State offers web-based decision tools to help producers make informed election decisions using crop data specific to their respective farming operations, it can be found on the Ag Manager website under the Ag Policy drop down menu.

The big question is then, "Which should I choose?" My gut reaction is, "I don't know that it matters this year and I honestly hope that neither program pays out, which means that production and price are both up." We are slowly moving back to a year to year decisions with a more regular time frame. Reference prices have ratcheted up but with crop prices currently above and the Marketing Year Average predictions, we don't expect PLC to be in effect. Even though we witnessed a very hot and dry growing season in 2026, we still have enough production in different regions of the county to offset ARC being in effect. So, without either program kicking in, the question is on prerogative. Do you want price protection - which with world wide issues at hand could be a very viable option, or do you want production protection? Even though we have moisture now, much like fall of 2025, we seem to have continued drought conditions. ARC is shallow loss, so it caps out quickly compared to PLC which will keep offsetting lower prices.

Kansas Property Tax Estimator Tool increases property tax transparency

Kansas agricultural land is valued based on its use value rather than market value. The calculation incorporates numerous factors, including county, land use, land productivity, capitalization rate, assessment ratio, acreage and local mill levy. The Property Tax Estimator brings those components together in one application, allowing users to see each stage of the calculation.

"This tool is about making the agricultural land valuation process easier for Kansans to understand," said Leah Tsoodle, director of K-State's Land Use Survey Center. "We created this tool to increase the transparency of the property tax methodologies and to give users — from taxing districts to landowners — a planning tool."

Users can select a county, land use, land class, and acreage and adjust variables such as the capitalization rate and mill levy. The tool then provides estimated income per acre, appraised value per acre, assessed value per acre, tax per acre and total estimated tax. Results can also be downloaded to Excel for future reference.

The flexibility of the tool allows users to explore questions such as how a different land class or mill levy could affect estimated agricultural land property taxes. It also provides a transparent way to see how individual components contribute to the final estimate.

The tool was designed to serve a broad range of users, including agricultural landowners and producers, taxing districts, legislators, lenders and advisers, and educators. Landowners, for example, can estimate taxes on land they own or are considering purchasing, while taxing districts can explore how changes in mill levies may affect revenue expectations

Additional information can be found here

Garden Mums

Once garden mums have finished flowering, you can cut the stems back to about 2–3 inches above the ground. After trimming, apply a layer of mulch over the plants to help protect them through the winter.

Another option is to leave the top growth intact until spring. The dried stems and foliage can provide some insulation for the plant's crown.

While some gardeners prefer to tidy up their mums in the fall, others leave the top growth in place for added winter protection.

Regardless of your fall maintenance practices, garden mums should not be allowed to dry out completely during the winter. If there has been little or no precipitation in the form of rain or snow, provide supplemental water during mild periods when the soil is not frozen. This will help protect the plants from drying out and improve their chances of surviving the winter.

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

Recycle Your Pumpkins

When our decorative pumpkins have passed their prime and our jack-o'-lanterns have lost their smiles, you may be thinking about throwing them away. But wait—pumpkins can still be put to good use!

- Add them to your garden. Pumpkins can be cut into small pieces and buried beneath leaf mulch in planters or garden beds. Because pumpkins have a high water content, they decompose relatively quickly and add organic matter back into the soil. Before doing this, be sure to remove all seeds to avoid growing an unwanted pumpkin patch!
- Save the seeds. Raw pumpkin seeds can be collected and roasted for human consumption. They can also be used as feed for birds and other wildlife, provided they are offered safely and without added salt or seasonings.
- Feed local wildlife. Squirrels, deer, and other animals may enjoy pumpkin flesh as a food source. If you choose to leave pumpkins outdoors, avoid placing them near roads or areas where wildlife could become a safety concern.
- Donate them to farms or zoos. Some farms, animal sanctuaries, and zoos accept pumpkins to feed their animals. Contact the facility first to confirm that it accepts pumpkin donations and to learn about any feeding guidelines.

Before tossing those pumpkins in the trash, consider giving them a second life! Recycling pumpkins is a simple way to reduce waste and return valuable organic matter to the environment.

You've moved plants indoors: Now What?

Cold temperatures have come to Kansas in fits and spurts this year, but enough that many gardeners have recently moved cold-sensitive plants indoors.

Transition your plants to the indoors by gradually introducing them to less light, but if not they could possibly go into a period of shock. Symptoms will include yellowing leaves, dieback, and wilt. Some plants may not survive the shock if it's extreme.

Water and Fertilizer: Whether indoors or out, light levels decrease from fall to winter, resulting in slower plant growth. This means the fertilizer and water needs will decrease.
Only provide water when the soil is dry about one inch deep.

Fertilizer can be applied at one-fourth the recommended rate in November, then again in February.

Temperature: If the air temperature drops below 50 degrees Fahrenheit, the leaves of more sensitive plants may begin to yellow.

Humidity: When humidity is lower, plants release more water through their leaves. Many common indoor plants prefer high relative humidity.

Light: Indoor plants should receive bright, indirect light either from a window or grow lights. Avoid placing plants too close to windows that are drafty, or next to heat vents.

Some indicators that plants are not receiving enough light include:

- Elongated internodes (space between leaf/stem unions).
- Pale foliage color on new leaves.
- Dieback of older leaves.

Robyn R. Trussel
4-H Youth Development Agent
rdeines@ksu.edu
Cell: 785-798-5020

Beyond Ready

ENROLL IN 4-H EASY AS 1-2-3

1. **Find a Club**
   Contact your local extension office or find a club near you. There are several options in every county!
2. **Visit A Club**
   Visit 2-3 clubs to see which one is the best fit for your family, based on schedule, location, and project focus.
3. **Enroll Online**
   Ready to join? Enroll at v2.4honline.com

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE 2026-2027 NW KS 4-H AG AMBASSADORS

AGRICULTURE CAREER DAY

Your future in agriculture starts here!

Saturday
November 14th, 2026

9 AM - 12 PM

Hays High School
2300 E 13th St., Hays, KS

EXPLORE. LEARN. GET BEYOND READY.

Join us for an interactive event designed for junior high and high school students to explore exciting career opportunities in agriculture and prepare for life after high school. Meet industry professionals and gain the tools you need to plan your future!

CAREER PATHWAY SESSIONS AVAILABLE:

CROPS AND AGRONOMY
Agronomist
Precision Ag/Technology
Crop Insurance Adjuster

AG BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS
Agriculture Communications
Agriculture Communication
Farm Management & Business

AGRICULTURE EDUCATION
High School Ag Education
Farm Bureau Coordinator
Extension Agent

ANIMAL SCIENCES
Feed Lot Management
Sale Barn Management
Veterinary Science

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS SESSIONS AVAILABLE:
RESUME AND COVER LETTER BASICS
FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIP TIPS
GETTING INVOLVED IN COLLEGE
WHAT TO EXPECT IN COLLEGE

REGISTER BY END OF DAY ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH!
HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/AG CAREERDAYREGISTRATION
SCAN HERE

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY | NORTHWEST KANSAS 4-H | DANE G. HANSEN FOUNDATION

This institution 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, and American Sign Language), may be requested by contacting the event contact Jenilee Godsey four weeks prior to the start of the event at 785-346-2521 and jenileem@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.
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Lane County 4-H Council Christmas Tree Fundraiser

We are getting our trees from
Delp Christmas Tree Farm in St. John, KS

4-5 ft tall trees - $65.00
5-6 ft tall trees - $75.00
6-7 ft tall trees - $85.00
7-8 ft tall trees - $95.00

Payments and Reservations can be made at the Lane Co. Extension Office.
For more information, contact
Tia McClure 620-295-0849 or
Robyn Trussel 785-798-5020

Volunteers Needed

Becoming a 4-H volunteer is a meaningful opportunity to impact the lives of young people while sharing your passions and skills. As a volunteer, you'll engage with youth in hands-on experiences that promote leadership, responsibility, and community involvement while working with trained extension staff and using research-backed curriculum.

Learn more about volunteer opportunities by contacting 4-H agent Robyn Trussel at 785-798-5020 to start the screening process. As we start the new year we are looking for caring adults to help us grow our 4-H youth.

Register by texting 785-798-5020 or email rdeines@ksu.edu. Include child's name, grade, parent's name and phone number, allergies and how youth will get home. $10 to WCED (Walnut Creek Extension District.

K-State for Kids

EXPLORE, LEARN, CREATE

A new discovery each week.

Who: All Youth Kindergarten through 4th grade

Where: LaCrosse Grade School

Cost: $10.00

Tuesday, November 3, 10, 17 and 24
immediately following school until 5:00pm

Snacks, hands-on learning and lots of fun!

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension
Walnut Creek District

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KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension Walnut Creek District

Deer Processing Workshop

November 19, 2026
6:00 pm

Lane County Fairgrounds
745 N. 7th Street
Dighton, KS 67839

Topics:

- Field Dressing
- Basic Processing

Presented by:

- *Dr. Drew Ricketts* – K-State Wildlife Extension Specialist

For more information and to register please call the Walnut Creek - LaCrosse Extension Office at 785 222-2710 or email jaredp11@ksu.edu

Please RSVP by Monday, November 16th

K-State Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the event contact **Jared Petersilie** two weeks prior to the start of the event **(11/19/2026)** at (785)- 222-2710. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so.

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