COMING SOON
3/1 - Registration for Succession Planning DUE
3/5 - Crop Talk Webinar
3/6 - Elder Abuse - Dighton - 11:30 am
3/6 - Lane County Cloverbuds
3/6 - Succession Planning Conference in Garden City
3/7 - Succession Planning in Great Bend
3/7 - Kansas Wheat Rx - Dodge City
3/12 - Crop Talk Webinar
3/13 - Elder Abuse - Dighton - 12 Noon
3/14 - Eating Smart - Ness City - 12 noon
3/16 - St. Patrick’s Day Parade - Rush Center - (4-H Jr. Leaders to host games)
3/18-19 - Ogallala Aquifer Conf in Liberal
3/19 - Body condition scoring lab with FHSU at LaCrosse. Livestock - 4 pm
3/20 - Elder Abuse - Ransom - 11:30 am
3/23 - NW Judging Contest- Super Saturday in Hays
3/24 - Lane County 4-H Beef Weigh-in
3/25 - Extension Board Meeting
3/29 - Good Friday - Offices closed

Spring Break FUN!
Tuesday, March 12 - 1 to 3 pm - Rush Co. Extension Office - Making Bagels
Wednesday, March 13 - 10:00am to 12 Noon - Ness Co. Fairgrounds - Livestock Education Day
Thursday, March 14 - 1-3 pm Rush Co. Extension Office - Group Paint Easter Bunny
Friday, March 15 - 10 am to noon - Photography
1 to 3 pm - Robots at Lane Co. Fairgrounds

www.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
- 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

K-State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service
K-State Research and is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
Elder Abuse is an intentional act, or failure to act, that causes or is likely to cause harm to an adult. The six most common categories of elder abuse are:
1. Physical
2. Emotional or Psychological
3. Sexual
4. Neglect
5. Abandonment
6. Financial/Exploitation

Prevention of elder abuse is critical. If you are able to identify and spot risk factors and warning signs, you’ll be more likely to identify and prevent abuse. Here are some things you should keep in mind:
- Take care of your health
- Regularly keep in touch with close friends, neighbors, and other loved ones
- Stay socially active by participating in events with family, friends, neighbors or your church
- Be cautious—if something doesn’t feel right, it probably isn’t
- Beware of family members or friends who might have substance abuse issues and those who may be in a desperate financial situation
- Be cautious in making financial decisions and monitor your financial accounts
- Avoid making rash spending decisions, especially if a sales pitch seems pushy
- Safeguard your online identity—log in information and passwords should be kept confidential
- Plan for your future by completing advance planning documents (wills, powers of attorney, etc.)
- Keep important papers with sensitive information in a locked drawer or cabinet
- Be cautious of anyone who wants to change your financial or health documents (wills, powers of attorney, etc.)
- Stand up for yourself, now your rights, and call for help if you need it

Suspected abuse should be reported to:
Kansas Department for Children and Families Adult Protective Services
1-800-922-5330

When you provide a report of suspected elder abuse, be sure to provide as much information as you can—what you have seen, heard, and what others have told you is all pertinent information. Everything in your report will be kept confidential and you will not be held liable if your suspicion cannot be substantiated. You do not have to have proof of abuse, neglect or exploitation; if you’re concerned, you need to call!
If you suspect someone is in immediate danger of elder abuse, call 911.
The ambassador program will be a premier leadership opportunity for youth ages 13 to 18 (current 8th-Grade through Senior in high school) who are passionate about agriculture and are willing to complete a one or two-year term. The program focuses on connecting youth with their local agricultural industries, exploring the richness and diversity of Kansas opportunities, developing ag advocacy skills and fostering educational mindsets, and increasing access to career and post-secondary experiences within the agriscience world. Participation/membership in 4-H is not required.

The Northwest Kansas 4-H Agricultural Ambassadors complete training to develop leadership and teamwork skills that are used in promoting and educating communities about agriculture. This includes leading educational experiences for youth and attending ag events, such as the Kansas Youth Ag Experience trip.

Youth interested in being a part of the ambassador program must complete an application, submit a leadership resume, a cover letter, three letters of reference, and complete a virtual interview if selected as a finalist. Applications and supporting documents are due by March 15th and may be submitted to your local K-State Research and Extension office.

For more information, a copy of the flyer and application visit the Twin Creeks District website at: https://www.twincreeks.k-state.edu/youth-ag/nw-ks-ag-ambassador-prog/index.html

We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to dive into agriculture and leadership!

**Last Years Ag Experience Trip**
- Reeves Feedlot, Garden City
- Tyree Ag- Aerial Spraying, Kinsley
- NextGin Cotton, Pratt
- Hudson Flour, Stafford
- Pratt Community College
- Cargill Innovation Center, Wichita
- Juniper Hill Farms, Lawrence
- KSU Beef Unit, Manhattan
We would like to share the upcoming Annual NW 4-H Judging Event and Super Saturday with all of our Kansas 4-H and FFA youth and families. This event has been going on since the early 70's and even though it has changed over the years it is still a great judging opportunity for 4-H & FFA youth to participate in. NW 4-H Judging Event and Super Saturday will be held on Saturday, March 23rd this year at the Fort Hays State University - Albertson Hall and Livestock Pavilion.

There will be judging contests available in Crops, Entomology, Horticulture, Life Skills, Livestock, Livestock Skill-a-thon and Photography. The cost of the judging contest is $7.00 per youth. Sack lunches will be available for $8.00. The daily agenda will look like this:

9:00am to 12:30pm - Indoor Judging (Crops, Entomology, Horticulture, Photography, Life Skills, and Livestock Skill-a-thon)
10:00am to noon - Volunteer/ Parent Session
11:30am to 1:00pm - Pick up Sack Lunch
12:00pm - Check in for livestock Judging at Livestock Pavilion , north of I-70
1:00pm - Livestock Judging Orientation
1:00pm to 3:00pm - Project Opportunities
1:30pm - Livestock Judging Contest Begins

If you choose to NOT participate in Livestock Judging then you may choose ONE of the following Project opportunities available from 1:00 - 3:00pm at Albertson Hall:
1) KS Shooting Sports Ambassadors will host a non-shooting, educational, hands-on activity.
2) The Ins and Outs of the Dog Project - make a parachute cord leash and other dog project related learning activities - $8.00
3) Hands-on STEM activities that coordinate with basic engineering and match up with several 4-H projects.
4) Club meeting ideas, activities and challenges, that are great for officer leadership teams.
5) Fiber Arts - Bohemian Macramé wall hanging - $15

Watch for registration information coming soon via 4-H Online email or from your local extension office.

For questions contact Robyn Trussel at (785)798-5020 or rdeines@ksu.edu.

**Registration Link:**
[https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6n7ovscdg5SbzE0](https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6n7ovscdg5SbzE0)
Spring Break Opportunities

Tuesday, March 12 - 1:00pm to 3:00pm Rush County Extension Office - **Making Bagels**
Wednesday, March 13 - 10:00am to 12 noon - Ness County Fairgrounds - **Livestock Education Day**
Thursday, March 14 - 1:00 to 3:00pm Rush County Extension Office - **Group Paint Easter Bunny**
Friday, March 15 - 10:00am to noon **Photography** 1:00 to 3:00pm **Robots** Lane County Fairgrounds

Watch for more detailed information coming soon.

Spring Into Volunteering

The Association of Kansas 4-H Volunteers is hosting "Spring Into Volunteering" in Salina on the K-State Campus on Saturday, April 20. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. and the day will conclude at 3 p.m. This is for anyone serving as a 4-H Volunteer or considering it! The goal is for volunteers to go home recharged, excited, and ready to try some new things in their volunteer roles.

Sessions for the day include: Understanding the 4-H Thrive Model, Record Books, Facilitating Sparks in SPIN Clubs, Hands-on Learning Techniques, and more!

Registration for the day is $20 and includes materials, snacks and lunch! Online registration is due April 1, 2024 and the fee will be submitted to local offices. [https://www.kansas4-h.org/volunteers/volunteer-continuing-education/index.html](https://www.kansas4-h.org/volunteers/volunteer-continuing-education/index.html)

Livestock Information

- Reminder that all small animals must be born after January 1st, this includes bucket calves, sheep, swine and goats.
- Steers/Breeding Heifers/Commercial Heifers must be ID 120 days prior to fair.
- Small animals must be ID 80 days prior to fair.
- 4-H Horse ID papers and copy of registered breeding stock papers are due June 1st.

Save the Date:
Sunday, April 14th
2-4pm
Food Frenzy and Cupcake Wars
ARC/PLC...can you believe we’ve been throwing these acronyms around for 10 years. They started with the 2014 farm bill and while we are more familiar with them now than we were, the decision is still just as difficult. First, I’ll look at the current situation then show projections for the next cycle. 

The latest “Agricultural Prices” report was released on January 31. This includes monthly cash prices received for December. Using this information, as well as futures prices throughout the marketing year, K-State has estimated marketing year average prices for wheat at $7.11 (down $0.13) from last month $4.73 for corn (down $0.10), $4.91 for grain sorghum (down $0.30), and $12.62 for soybeans (down $0.22). Cash prices are now finalized for seven months for wheat and for four months for the summer crops. The months are weighted, so the big months are still coming and changes will happen. Based on these estimated 2023/2024 MYA prices, there will be no PLC payment for any of these crops in October of this year, because prices are far above their respective reference prices of $5.50 for wheat, $3.70 for corn, $3.95 for grain sorghum, and $8.40 per bushel for soybeans.

Payments, if any, will be made in October, 2024. Many areas of Kansas had low yields in 2023 and this may lead to an ARC-County payment this year, but the amounts depend on price, which looks to be relatively high, lowering any payment. This possible payment is subject to payment limits and sequestration cuts. Farmers who are in counties with an “average” yield in 23/24 which would equal the 5-year Olympic average yield will generally need a MYA price that is below the 5-year Olympic average price to generate an ARC payment. Olympic averages mean that we take the previous 5 years numbers, take off the high and the low and average the other three. We have had several years of strong marketing year averages both yields and prices that are keeping the benchmark relatively high. While crop losses were large in 2022, that number gets dropped and we still have to remember years 19, 20, 21 have a bearing. KSU estimates wheat would need to fall below $4.73, corn would need to fall below $3.42, grain sorghum below $3.71, and $8.23 for soybeans, in order for ARC payments to occur with average yields. Yields would have needed to be significantly below average for a payment to occur because prices held strong enough to cover the benchmark revenue.

Now on to the current decision. With the 2018 Farm Bill now extended through the end of September 2024, an ARC/PLC election will be required from producers with an approaching deadline of March 15. Don’t wait too long to sign up. Projections for Marketing Year Average (MYA) prices for 2024-2025 are $7.01 for wheat $4.93 for corn and $4.98 for grain sorghum and $12 for soybeans. These prices are all well above the relevant reference price for each crop. One change going forward is that the reference prices are moving up. Corn moves to 4.01, milo moves to 4.06 so the gap between them as closed. Wheat stays at 5.50. These are estimates that are many months into the future.

Kansas State University Department of Agricultural Economics estimates that there would be no PLC payment for wheat, corn, grain sorghum, or soybeans in October 2025, assuming these prices hold. ARC-Co is shallow loss which means that it caps off regardless of price or yield. Each county is specific, so showing each crop (dry and irrigated) in each county would be immense on space. Each office in the WCED has spread sheets for each of the major crops to print, email, or handout. To see the same spread sheet with the ARC limits and the PLC comparison go to: https://www.agmanager.info/ag-policy/2018-farm-bill/tradeoff-between-20242025-arc-and-plc

PLC would protect against low prices-the lower the price gets, the better PLC returns. While estimates do not show payments, you only have to look at the December 2023 numbers I mentioned earlier to see price drops of 10-30 cents for a month. These programs do not reflect on local prices, and for a county to have a loss for ARC it takes a wide spread event such as drought or late freeze. Streaky hail storms can be devastating to crop yields but largely do not affect an entire county average. For further information go to: https://www.agmanager.info/ag-policy/2018-farm-bill/arc-and-plc-selections-2024
Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus

Wheat streak mosaic virus has been confirmed in three counties in Kansas. These 3 counties included Russell, Barton, and Ellis. Now is a great time to start scouting for wheat streak. Several factors contribute to higher-than-expected disease pressure for 2024. One of the biggest factors in this part of the world being delayed harvest. While wheat viruses are sometimes difficult to distinguish by eye, they behave differently in the field. If you are questioning your wheat, call your local Extension office today and we can take a sample and send it in to the K-State Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab to confirm the diagnostics.

Winter Damage to Pine Trees

Extreme weather patterns impact plant growth and health. Winter damage to pine trees frequently shows up on the north or northwest side of the tree, although it can hit the top of the tree as well. The outer needles tend to be scorched with the inner needle growth remaining green. The more exposed foliage is more susceptible to desiccating winter winds.

Winter damage on pine trees can be confused with some of the common Kansas pine diseases such as pine wilt, Diplodia pine tip blight and Dothistroma needles blight. To differentiate between these problems is the timing of the damage. Pine trees generally enter the winter looking good and then get hit by low temperatures and or desiccating winds sometime between Dec-Feb.

Winter damage can be very dramatic but it is best to wait until early to mid-May to assess recovery potential. Even though the pine needles are scorched, the dormant buds frequently escape damage and push out new growth in the spring.

The overall appearance of the tree will gradually improve over time.

Transplanting Tomatoes Early

If you would like to have your tomatoes plants produce earlier in the year, there are certain things to keep in mind. Most people who try to get a jump on the season set their tomatoes out early and cross their fingers. However, that is often not a good plan as tomatoes have to have certain requirements before they will grow well. Those requirements are an acceptable soil temperature for root growth and an acceptable air temperature for both plant growth and fruit set.

Tomatoes need a soil temperature of at least 55 degrees to do well. Plastic mulch is most commonly used to warm the soil. Several days may be needed to raise the soil temperature. Check the soil temperature 2.5 inches deep in the soil. Plants must be protected from frost. Hot caps or water teepees are placed over the young plants to provide protection as well as provide a higher average temperature to encourage growth. If the temperature goes below 55 degrees at night, tomato flowers may not set. The plant is not hurt, but the blossom will not set fruit, or if it does set fruit, the fruit is often distorted.
Crop Talk
Webinar Series

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

February 20
Management Tactics for Wheat Production
Romulo Lollato, K-State Wheat Specialist

February 27
Biological Products and Their Role in Soil Fertility
Dave Franzen, North Dakota State Soil Specialist

March 5
Managing Areas of Fields with High pH
Dorivar Ruiz Diaz, K-State Soil Fertility Specialist

March 12
Fallow Replacement Options in Dryland Rotations
Lucas Haag, K-State Northwest Area Agronomist

Register to attend at
www.northwest.ksu.edu/events

Links for joining will be sent after registration.

Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) Credits have been applied for.

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

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
Elder Abuse and Neglect: What You Should Know

Joy Center
144 N. 1st Street
Dighton, KS 67839

Wednesday, March 6, 2024
11:30 A.M.

- What is elder abuse?
- What are the warning signs of abuse?
- Who is at risk for abuse?
- Who perpetrates abuse?
- How can it be prevented?
- How can I report suspected abuse?

Kristen Schmidt, Family and Community Wellness Extension Agent

K-State Research and Extension
Walnut Creek District

K-State Research and 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, Kristen Schmidt, two weeks prior to the start of the event at 785-748-3927. Requests received after this time will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service. K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Elder Abuse and Neglect: What You Should Know

March 13th
Lane County Community Room
144 S. Lane, Courthouse
Dighton
12-1 PM CST

Presented by Kristen Schmidt
Family and Community Wellness Agent

CONTACT THE LANE COUNTY WALNUT CREEK DISTRICT OFFICE FOR QUESTIONS
620-397-2597
or kbschmidt@ksu.edu

Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities, and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, hearing, or learning disability, contact Kristen Schmidt, 620-397-2597.

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Keys to Embracing Aging

Eating Smart

NESS CITY LEISURE YEARS CENTER
422 NORTH TOPEKA AVENUE
NESS CITY, KS 67560

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024
12:00 P.M.

Food has an impact on overall health. Nutritious foods help maintain a healthy body and protect against various illnesses, disorders, and chronic diseases, such as heart disease, stroke, dementia, type 2 diabetes, bone loss, cancer, and anemia. Diet and nutrition can also help reduce high blood pressure, lower cholesterol, manage arthritis, maintain healthy skin, hair, and nails and manage diabetes. It is never too early to start eating well. Smart, nutritious eating contributes to health and well-being at any age.

Kristen Schmidt, Family and Wellness Extension Agent

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Walnut Creek District

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Elder Abuse and Neglect: What You Should Know

Ransom Senior Center
409 Vermont Avenue
Ransom, KS 67572

Wednesday, March 20, 2024
11:30 A.M.

- What is elder abuse?
- What are the warning signs of abuse?
- Who is at risk for abuse?
- Who perpetrates abuse?
- How can it be prevented?
- How can I report suspected abuse?

Kristen Schmidt, Family and Community Wellness Extension Agent

K-State Research and Extension
Walnut Creek District

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4-H LEADERSHIP DAY:
THE YOGOWYPI EXPERIENCE!
CHECK OUT: WWW.YOGOWYPI.COM TO LEARN ABOUT OUR SPEAKER--BILL CORDES

APRIL 27TH, 2024
10AM-12:30PM
EVENT LOCATION:
GRAY COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS
17002 W HWY 50, CIMARRON, KS

SPONSORED BY GRAY COUNTY 4-H AND WALNUT CREEK DISTRICT 4-H

K-STATE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN ALL PROGRAMS, SERVICES, AND ACTIVITIES. REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES MAY BE REQUESTED BY CONTACTING GRAY COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE AT 620-855-3821.

$10/4-Her or Volunteer. Registration Due to Local Counties by April 19, 2024

Name: ___________________________ Grade: ______________
Age: ______________ Circle One: Male Female Prefer Not to Answer
Extension County/District: ______________________________
Address: ________________________________________________
City, State, Zip: __________________________________________
Parent/Guardian: __________________________________________
Home #: ______________________ Cell #: ______________________
Food Allergies: __________________________________________
Tractor Safety Operator’s Course

Wednesday, May 29, 2024
Gray County Fairgrounds
17002 W. Highway 50, Cimarron

PURPOSE OF COURSE & TEST:
To provide teenagers with a fuller appreciation and awareness of needed safety practices around tractors and farm machinery. As well as provide 14 & 15 year old youth an opportunity to receive a tractor operator’s permit, required by the Child Labor Regulations in regard to agricultural hazardous occupations before they can be employed to operate a tractor.

WHO MAY PARTICIPATE:
Any teenage youth, regardless of age. Those completing the course and test will receive an operator’s certificate upon completion of when he/she turns 14. Those who are 16 or older do not need an operator’s certificate, but are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

SCHEDULE:
Tractor and other important farm safety skills will be given from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 29th. Registration starts at 8:00 a.m. at the Gray County Fairgrounds.

COST:
$20.00 (made payable to the Ford County Ag Activity Fund) for noon meal and handouts.

MEAL:
The noon meal, included in the registration fee, is hamburgers hot off the grill. Students are encouraged to eat the meal provided. Please contact the Ford County Extension Office, 620-227-4542 with any participant’s dietary restrictions.

ENROLLMENT:
All participants will need to complete a registration form and a 4-H Participation form in order to participate.

PRE-REGISTRATION FOR TRACTOR COURSE IS REQUIRED BY MAY 24th, TO YOUR LOCAL EXTENSION OFFICE.