Happy Mother’s Day

May 12th

Upcoming Dates

5/1 - Lane County Cloverbuds
5/1 - Aging in Place - Joy Center in Dighton at 11:30 am
5/15 - Aging in Place - Ransom Sr. Center at 11:30 am
5/16 - Taking Time for You - Ness Leisure Years at 12 noon and 1:30 pm at Wheatview Apts, Ness City
5/19 - Lane County Spring Show
5/27 - Office Closed - Memorial Day
5/26-27 - Spring Show in LaCrosse
5/29 - Wheat Plot Tour

County Fair Dates

Lane: July 17-20
Ness: July 23-27
Rush: July 31 to August 3

www.walnutcreek.ksu.edu

Lane County Office
144 S. Lane, Courthouse P O Box 487
Dighton, KS 67859
620-397-2806
- Lacey Noterman, Director and Agriculture Ext. Agent - lnote@ksu.edu
- Chelsey Shapland, 4-H Program Assistant - cchapland@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, FCW Extension Agent 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
Clover Connection

May Dates
1 Add/Drop Projects
4 Spend time with a Senior Citizen
4 Small Animal Weigh-in Rush 8am
6 Lane County 4-H Council
13 Rush Community Leaders
19 Lane County Spring Show
20 Rush Judging Extravaganza

June Dates
1 Babysitting Clinic - Rush Co
3 Babysitting Clinic Ness Co

Camp Deadlines
Discovery Days - May 5
Camp Counselor Aps - May 15
4Clover Camp - May 31
Leadership 101 - May 31
Cedar Bluff Overnight - May 31
find flyers under upcoming events at www.walnutcreek.ksu.edu

Never Stop Learning
We are so excited to bring the 3rd Summer of Never Stop Learning to Walnut Creek Extension District. Our interns this summer will be Amy Foos and Alexa Reinhardt. The program areas that we will focus on this summer will be “Reading Makes Cents” teaming up with the local libraries. Junior Gardening teaming up with the Long Term Care in Ness City and Fun with STEM in Dighton, as well as Community Art, Wildlife and Natural Sciences, Mindful Me and Teen Initiatives/Team Work. The dates that are secured at this time are:

Otis Library - Reading Makes Cents - June 5, 12 and 26
Ness City Library Summer Reading - June 4, 11, 18, 25
Dighton Library Reading Makes Cents - June 15, 20 and July 11

We hope as you are planning activities for your children this summer you will watch for Walnut Creek Extension youth programs to help them learn, grow and have fun. Watch the Walnut Creek Extension District Facebook and website for the most up to date events. For more information you can also contact your local Extension Office at:
Lane County 620-397-2806, Ness County 785-798-3921 or Rush County 785-222-2710.
Do You Have What It Takes to be a Babysitter?

My first real job was babysitting two little boys, this is how I raised my own spending money as a teenager. As summer is just around the corner, this might be an option you want to consider.

Babysitters need to be capable, caring, trustworthy and responsible. It is recommended that you are 13 and older, but here are a few more things you should consider: Are you mature enough? What ages are the children? What other experience do you have with children? Do you like children?

The main responsibility of a babysitter is the safety of the children. This includes knowing where the children are at all times, being aware of your surroundings for items the child may choke on, sharp objects or poison items that may injure the child or yourself, and being alert of stranger danger. Know some basic first aid in case a child scrapes a knee and know when to call 911. Talk to the parents about who is allowed at the home and where you may go with the children. Also, there are several things you should know before a parent leaves, these are some examples:

- Phone number, where the parent may be reached.
- Name and phone number of a helpful neighbor.
- Any allergies, especially to food, of the children

While you are babysitting, you are "On the Job" this means you should not be texting, snapchatting or talking to your friends. You should not watch TV shows that may be ok for you, but not age appropriate for the children you are babysitting, you should use appropriate language and actions and you should stay awake at all times.

Once you are aware of all the safety matters, now what? You are going to want to fill your time with fun activities that will help pass the day. Some things to take in to consideration are the ages and stages of the children you are babysitting. As a child grows they learn to better control muscles and their own body, so knowing what the children are capable of will determine what activities they can enjoy.

Playing with the children you are caring for is very important, not only because it is fun, but also because it helps their brains develop in a positive way. Hands-on activities with blocks, play dough, puppets, toy cars, jigsaw puzzles, reading with them, pretending, coloring, going for a walk, and singing all have an impact on how the children develop emotionally and physically. Play with them on their level, get on the floor, so you are not always seen as "giants". If the children are older they can do exercises like jumping jacks, running and crawling. Children love to be active, but quiet time is important too. If you would like to know more about babysitting plan to attend one of the trainings:

Saturday, June 1 - Rush County, back room Extension Office, 10:30am to 2:30pm
Monday, June 3 - Ness County, Ness Fairgrounds, 10:00am to 2:00pm
Senior Shout-outs

Logan Skillet - Rush Co Roadrunner
Hutchinson Community College
Ag Mechanics

Hope Lumpkins - Otis Go Getters
Barton Community College
Medical Lab Technician

Nevaeh McVey - Otis Go Getters
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
Industrial and Operations Engineering

Megan Jacobs - Walnut City 4-H
Fort Hays State University
Recipient of the Eugene Littler 4-H Scholarship

Eston Juno - Otis Go Getters
Barton Community College
Natural Gas Distribution

Emily George - Otis Go Getters
Pratt Community College
Farm & Ranch Management

Isabella McNey-Riffle - Eager Beavers
Fort Hays State University
Diagnostic Imaging Radiology & Ultrasound

Marissa Reeve - Lone Star Ranger
NCK Technical College
Automotive Technology

Lillian Payne - Busy Beavers
Fort Hays State University
Marketing & Communications
Early May is a good time to plant most of our warm-season crops such as tomatoes and peppers, however it is best to delay planting of winter squash and pumpkins until mid-June. Planting those two crops now will result in a crop that is mature enough to be attractive to the first generation of squash bugs in July.

Delaying until about June 15th will allow plants to escape the attack from the pests! This later planting will also mean that pumpkins will mature closer to Halloween.

The second generation of squash bugs will hatch in August. The plants will need to be protected from that generation. The later planting will prevent the plants from getting hit twice!

As you are running a maintenance check on your mower before getting it out this year be sure to look at those blades and sharpen if needed. A dull blade does not cut cleanly but rather shreds the ends of the leaf blades. The shredded ends dry out, giving the lawn that whitish look. A sharp mower blade is even more important when the turf starts putting up seed heads next month. The seed head stems are much tougher than the grass blades and more likely to shred. Under normal use, mower blades should be sharpened about every 10 hours of use.
USDA Farm and Food Worker Relief Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is currently offering a stipend payment of $600 for qualifying farmworkers, ranchers and related occupations. Harvest America, a nonprofit in Kansas since 1983, is assisting with the application process at no cost to applicants.

Qualifying work must have occurred from January 27, 2020 to May 11, 2023, which coincides with the dates of the National Public Health Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Each qualifying member of a household who is 14 and above may receive a payment. This might also include 4-H members if they received payment for farm and ranch activities.

We can only test the gauges from the following brands of canners:
- Presto
- National
- Magic Seal
- Maid of Honor

We cannot, and do not need to, test All American (AA) canner gauges. All American does not test them either. They strongly recommend that consumers use the weighted gauge to determine pressure. The gauge is there just to see the pressure is being built up and to know when the pressure drops to zero when canning is complete.

If someone has an older model of AA canner, that has a petcock valve, that valve can be replaced with the weighted gauge. They need to contact AA at 920-686-2701 or customerrelations@wafco.com which is a part of the Wisconsin Aluminum Foundry.

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

On a normal schedule, Kristen will be in:
- LaCrosse on Tuesday
- Dighton on Wednesday
- Ness City on Monday, Thursday and Friday

For more information or to apply online visit https://harvestamerica.org. If you need assistance with completing the application contact Kristen Schmidt, Family and Community Wellness Agent, at 785-798-3921.
Implants are small pellets that contain a growth stimulant that is slowly released over a period of time. Implants work by increasing circulating levels of somatotropin, which the animal is already producing, and an insulin-like growth-factor. This causes an increase in the secretion of growth hormone, which increases muscle growth.

Many implant products are available for use in nursing calves, stocker calves and feedlot calves. Most implants are specifically designed for a certain sex, age or stage of production. Always read the product label and follow the manufacturer’s recommendations prior to implant use.

Of the hormones used in beef cattle implants, three are naturally occurring (estradiol, progesterone and testosterone) and two are synthetics (zeranol and trenbolone acetate). Estradiol, progesterone and zeranol are estrogenic, whereas testosterone and trenbolone acetate are androgenic. Estrogenic refers to hormones affecting female characteristics and androgenic refers to hormones affecting male characteristics. Zeranol mimics estradiol and trenbolone acetate mimics testosterone.

Implanting nursing calves with a growth stimulant is one of the most economically justifiable practices available in the beef industry. Implants have been shown to increase weaning weights of nursing calves in hundreds of research trials. Stocker and feedlot calves exhibit even greater responses than nursing calves. Implanting returns more revenue per dollar invested than any other management practice.

Despite being approved for more than 50 years, only 33 percent of cow/calf producers nationwide use growth-promoting implants. Unless calves are marketed to a program that prohibits the use of implants or bull calves left intact and are being retained for bull development, nursing calves intended for sale should be implanted prior to weaning.

Although technologies are constantly being developed to reduce the costs of beef production, cow/calf producers are often reluctant to use implants. Therefore, it is critical that manufacturers invest money into research and product development to benefit cow/calf producers.

Optimal response to implants depends on sanitation and proper implanting techniques. Improper sanitation and technique may cause defects including abscesses, lost implants, improper placement, crushed pellets and missing pellets. Implant manufacturers market an implant gun that is specific for each implant. The implant and implant gun should be made by the same manufacturer to keep defects to a minimum.

Examine the ear to make sure the implant was properly placed. The implant should be slightly movable if placed between the skin and cartilage. The implant will not be absorbed if it is placed in the cartilage where there is no blood flow. Avoid placing the implant in the blood vessel because the absorption rate will be higher, and the implant will be effective for a shorter period of time. Be patient and make sure the implant is correctly placed.
Pre-register by May 24th

Registration Form
Health Participation Form

Tractor Safety Operator's Course

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

Students must attend all day on May 29th for the training and final test.

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.

Sponsored By:
Clark, Comanche, Ford, Gray, Hodgeman, Meade, Pawnee County Extension Councils, Walnut Creek Extension District, & 21st Central Extension District—Edwards County

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, vision or hearing disability, contact Andrea Bums, 620-227-4542. Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service is an equal opportunity provider and employer.