



# K- State Research and Extension Walnut Creek Extension District

## May 2024

**Happy  
Mother's  
Day**  
May 12th



[www.walnutcreek.ksu.edu](http://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](mailto:lnote@ksu.edu)
- Chelsey Shapland, 4-H Program Assistant - [cshapland@ksu.edu](mailto:cshapland@ksu.edu)
- Donnis Maughlin, Office Professional - [dmaughli@ksu.edu](mailto: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](mailto:rdeines@ksu.edu)
- Kristen Schmidt, FCW Extension Agent [kbschmidt@ksu.edu](mailto:kbschmidt@ksu.edu)
- Randae Rufenacht, Office Professional [rrufenac@ksu.edu](mailto: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](mailto:jaredp11@ksu.edu)
- Berny Unruh, Office Professional [bunruh@ksu.edu](mailto:bunruh@ksu.edu)

### 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



# Clover Connection



**Robyn Trussel**

4-H Youth Development Agent

rdeines@ksu.edu cell: 785-798-5020



## 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](http://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 13, 20 and July 11**



We hope as you are planning activities for you 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



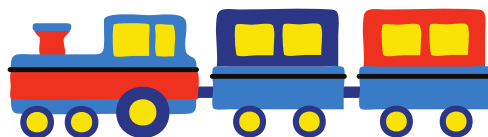
While you are babysitting, you are "On the Job" this means you should not be texting, snapchatting or talking to your friends. You should not watch TV shows that may be ok for you, but not age appropriate for the children you are babysitting, you should use appropriate language and actions and you should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



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



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



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

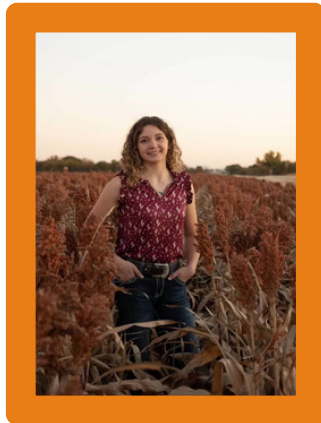


Isbella McNey-Rifle - Eager Beavers  
Fort Hays State University  
Diagnostic Imaging Radiology & Ultrasound



Megan Jacobs - Walnut City 4-H  
Fort Hays State University  
Animal Science on the Pre-Vet Course  
Recipient of the Eugene Littler 4-H  
Scholarship

Marissa Reeve - Lone Star Ranger  
NCK Technical College  
Automotive Technology



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

Lillian Payne - Busy Beavers  
Fort Hays State University  
Marketing & Communications



## Save the Date - Annual Wheat Plot Tour

Save the Date – May 29, 2024  
Walnut Creek District Wheat Plot Tour  
9:30 am – Rush County Plot Tour  
2:00 pm – Ness County Plot Tour  
6:00 pm – Lane County Plot Tour  
More information to come!



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

## Delay Planting Squash and Pumpkins



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!

## Lawn-Mowing Season is HERE!

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.

Workers will:

- Self-certify through sufficient documentation proving employment at a food processing facility, meatpacking facility or farm, such as a W-2 tax form or paycheck stubs and
- Self-certify that they incurred expenses preparing for, preventing exposure to, and/or responding to the COVID-19 pandemic such as, but not limited to: costs for personal protective equipment, expenses associated with quarantines and testing, and dependent care, and
- Self-certify that they have not previously received a Farm and Food Worker Relief beneficiary payment through another entity.
- Identity verification: workers must also submit sufficient proof of identity when requesting funds.

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.



**Kristen Schmidt**

Family and Community  
Wellness Agent  
[kbschmidt@ksu.edu](mailto:kbschmidt@ksu.edu)

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



## Pressure Canner Gauge Testing

With summertime upon us, canning will be in full swing before we know it. Did you know that your local Extension Office can test your pressure canner gauges?

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](mailto:customerrelations@wafco.com) which is a part of the Wisconsin Aluminum Foundry.



**Jared Petersilie**  
Extension Agent  
Animal Sciences  
Farm Management  
jaredp11@ksu.edu

## IMPLANTS

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.

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.

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

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

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



**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension



Sponsored By:

Clark, Comanche, Ford, Gray,  
Hodgeman, Meade, Pawnee  
County Extension Councils,  
Walnut Creek Extension District,  
& 21<sup>st</sup> Central Extension  
District— Edwards County

## 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup>, TO YOUR LOCAL EXTENSION OFFICE.**

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.