

AGRICULTURE FOCUS

January/February 2019 CONTACT INFORMATION

Ford County
Extension Office
100 Gunsmoke
Dodge City, KS 67801

Agent:

Andrea Burns,
County Extension Agent,
Agriculture & Natural Resources

Hours:

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 (Noon)
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Phone:

620-227-4542

Fax:

620-227-4586

E-Mail:

aburns@ksu.edu

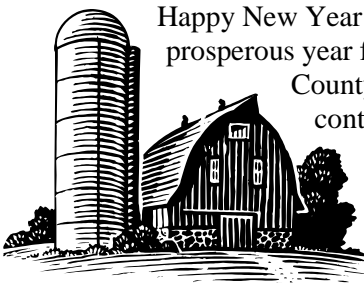
Web:

www.ford.ksu.edu

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THE NEEDLE IN THE HAYSTACK...



Happy New Year! I hope that 2019 will be a successful and prosperous year for the agriculture community here in Ford County. With that being said, this newsletter

contains information on lots of upcoming meetings around the area. There is something for everyone from beekeeping and farmer's markets to calving and leasing. I am needing some landowners who want to participate in a leasing exercise/simulation/experiment on

January 24th. You will be provided lunch and a stipend. Please contact me for more details and if you are interested.

If you have an idea for a meeting, please let me know. Ford County Extension wants to provide timely, educational meetings that are helpful to you.

Andrea

2018 Farm Bill

A First Look at the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018

After a long and heated debate, the 2018 Farm Bill is law. While the 2014 Farm had new farm programs and major changes, the 2018 Farm Bill is largely status quo with some improvements to Title I programs that should benefit farmers during these tough times in agriculture.

Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) are again offered, with ARC having a county and individual farm operation, as before. However, Producers will elect a program per commodity for 2019 and 2020, but then have ANNUAL elections beginning in 2021. This will alleviate much of the pressure in having to make a 5-year decision, as it was for the previous farm bill. Producers can change their program preferences based on more current market conditions.

Some provisions that have changed specific to ARC-County are payments will be calculated based on the physical location of the farm, not the administrative county. USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) yields per planted acre will be used as the first source of county-yield information to set revenue guarantees and calculate payments. A separate irrigated and dryland ARC-County Guarantee and payment will be calculated for EVERY county.

The Conservation Title saw some heated debate and changes. The CRP acre cap will be increased over time from 24 million acres currently to 27 million acres by 2023. But rental rates will be reduced to 85% of the average county rental rate for general sign-ups and 90% of the county average for continuous CRP enrollment. While Conservation Stewardship Program will be phased out as a standalone acre-based program and be administered with the current Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).

Find more Farm Bill information online at AgManager.info-Ag Policy.

K-State's Winter Ranch Management

Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at Noon to 3:00 p.m.

Hodgeman County 4-H Building

1005 Atkin Street, Jetmore, KS

Strategies to mitigate environmental factors impacting reproduction is the theme of the 1029 Kansas State University Winter ranch Management Seminar Series. This meeting will feature presentations and comments by extension educators on profit-enhancing strategies.

The meetings will also feature a popular 'town-hall' style question and answer session between Kansas' cattle producers and extension specialists. The series has a history of being a successful stretch of meetings, which are hosted throughout the state of Kansas, said Bob Weaber, K-State Research and Extension cow-calf specialist. Weaber, along with other state, district and local extension staff, will take part in the series to help answer producers' questions. The specialists will answer a wide range of questions on beef cattle issues including animal health, nutrition, management, genetics and reproduction.

The previous year's variable weather across Kansas presented many challenges for farmers and ranchers. Our extension team continues to field questions from beef producers related to environmental effects and their impact on cow-herd reproduction," Weaber said. "Our extension team has a breadth of experience in beef cattle management, reproduction, genetics, animal health and nutrition."

Topics to be discussed are environmental factors affecting conception rates and forage quality and availability impacts on beef cow nutrition during late gestation and pre-breeding. Early in the year is a great time for producers to think and plan for the coming year about opportunities to reduce costs and enhance revenue streams.

To attend K-State's Winter Ranch Management session on Tuesday, February 19, contact DeWayne Craghead, Hodgeman County Extension Agent at 620-357-8321 or e-mail dcraghea@ksu.edu. Participants are asked to RSVP February 12. For more information, visit www.KSUBeef.org.

Cover Your Acres

January 15 and 16, 2019

The Gateway Civic Center, Oberlin, KS

Producers, consultants and experts will gather for the 2019 Cover Your Acres Winter Conference on January 15-16, at the Gateway Civic Center in Oberlin. The conference is a joint venture between K-State Research and Extension and the Northwest Kansas Crop Residue Alliance.

The 2019 speaker topics include: High Plain Irrigated Soybean Management; Adjuvants and Their Effects on Herbicides and Tank Mixes; Current Financial Status of NW Kansas Farms; Dryland Corn Hybrids; Getting Peak Performance from Paraquat; Land Values and Rental Rates; Managing Insect Resistance in Corn; Palmer Amaranth Management; Remediation of Eroded High pH Hill-Top Soils with Manure; Top 3 Mistakes in NW Kansas Wheat Production and a Producer Panel Discussion.

The same programs will be offered both days of the conference; participants attending both days will find it easier to catch most, or all of the programs. The program has applied for CCA CEUs and Commercial Applicator CEUs.

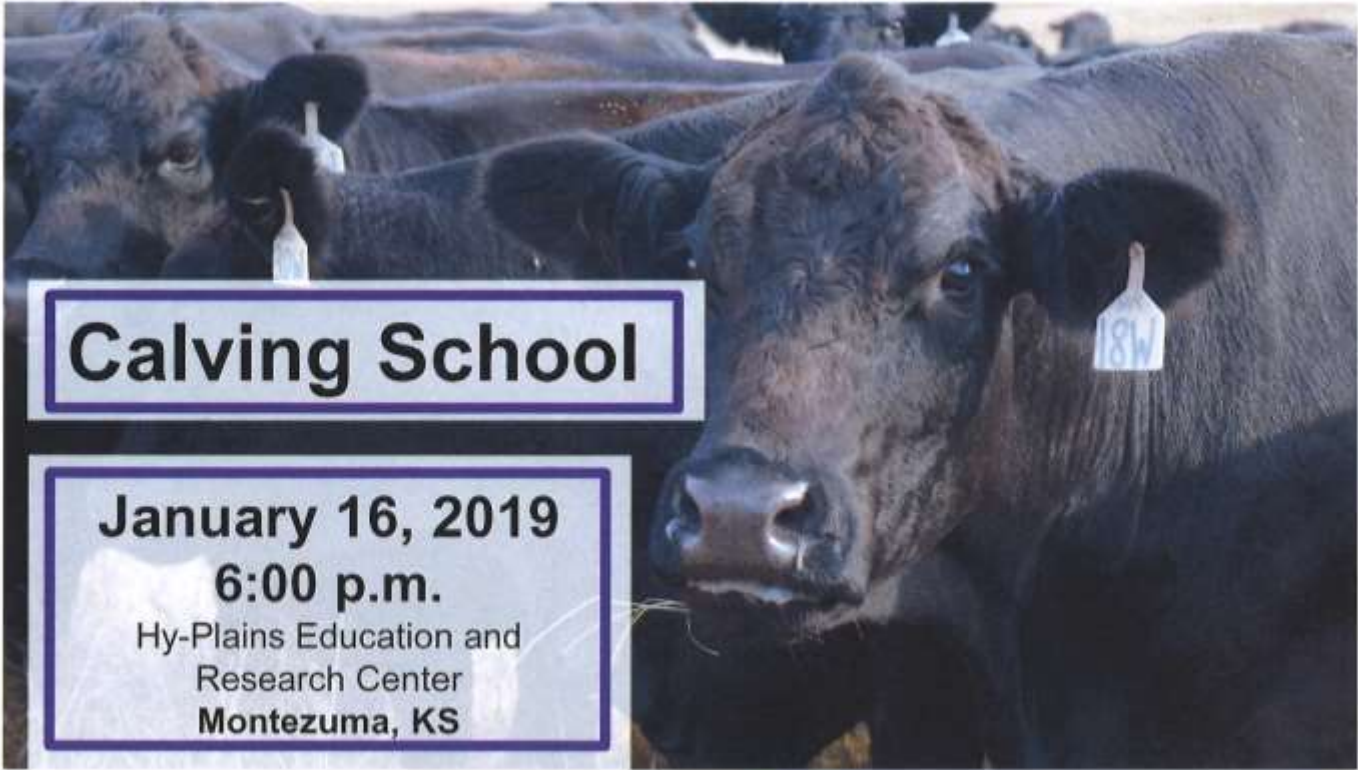
Registration will begin at 7:45 a.m., with educational sessions ending at 5:00 p.m. followed by a "Bull Session" on Tuesday evening, where attendees can visit with industry and university specialists while enjoying heavy hors d'oeuvres. Register online at www.northwest.ksu.edu/CoverYourAcres. For questions, call 785-462-6281.

Upcoming Events:

- **2019 K-State Soybean School – Scott City**
Thursday, January 24, 2019, 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.
For more information: visit <http://bit.ly/KSUSoybean> or e-mail John Beckman, Scott County Extension Ag Agent at jbeckman@ksu.edu.
- **2019 K-State Sorghum School – Garden City**
Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
For more information: visit <http://bit.ly/KSUSorghum> or e-mail Jennifer Stoss, Finney County Extension Ag Agent at jstoss@ksu.edu.
- **2019 K-State Pre-Plant Corn School – Garden City**
Friday, February 15, 2019, 7:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
For more information: visit <https://kscorn.com/CornSchool/>

* There is no cost to attend schools. Participants are asked to pre-register one week prior to the school they plan to attend. Online registration is available.

* For the Sorghum School, CCA and CEU credits have been applied for.



Calving School

January 16, 2019
6:00 p.m.

Hy-Plains Education and
Research Center
Montezuma, KS

Hy-Plains Education & Research Center
Hy-Plains Feed Yard
7505 U.S. Hwy 56 – Montezuma
(5 miles West of Montezuma)

Watch for signs

No Charge

Thank you to our sponsors
MultiMin90 & Hy-Plains Feed Yard

Wednesday January 16, 2019

- 6:00 pm Supper
- 6:30 pm Program Begins

Register by Fri, January 11, 2019

Gray County Extension Office

- Phone: 620-855-3821
- email: kstefan@ksu.edu



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Research and Extension

Gray, Ford, Edwards,
Hodgeman, & Pawnee

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Increasing practical skills for the
calving season

Dr. A.J. Tarpoff, K-State Extension
Beef Veterinarian

- Increase number of live calves born when assistance is needed
- Tips on when & how to intervene
- Assisting cows versus first-calf heifers
- Demonstrate proper use of calving equipment on life-size scale

Dr. Justin Waggoner, Southwest
Extension, Beef Systems

- Does your supplementation program fit your situation and your cows

Dr. Jodi Pitts, Santa Fe Trail Vet Clinic

- Proper administering and handling of vaccinations and medications



The Basics of Beekeeping

Tuesday, January 22, 2019

Meal Served at 6:30 pm

Ford County Fairgrounds

901 West Park Street, Dodge City

Beekeeping is a fun and worthwhile hobby, producing a sustainable product enjoyed by many. A hobby which has the potential to transform from a hobby into a productive business. *This meeting will cover:* Biology of Bees, Bee Acquisition, Seasonal Management of Bees, and Bee Hive Location.

Speakers:

Becky and Steve Tipton
Kansas Honey Producers Association

Jim Kellie
Kansas Honey Producers Association, President

Sponsors: 


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Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and program accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact Brice Gibson, 620-635-2811 or Michelle White-Godinet, Assistant Director of Affirmative Action, Kansas State University, (TDD) 785-532-4807.

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RSVP:

Please RSVP to K-State
Research and Extension-Clark County at
620-635-2811 or e-mail
begibson@ksu.edu by January 15th.



Farm Land Lease Workshop



January 24, 2019

1:30 – 3:00 P.M.

Ford County Fair Building
901 W. Park Street
Dodge City, KS 67801



Leasing land for farming and ranching has become a necessity to grow and stay competitive in today's commercial agriculture. As a result, understanding how to effectively and equitably negotiate a land lease has risen in importance for both landowners and tenants. This workshop is designed to help both landowners and producers consider the factors that affect lease rates, contract terms, and risk exposure.

Topics covered in this workshop include:

1. Explaining the differences and similarities of various leasing arrangements: crop share, fixed cash rent, flexible leases, AUM pasture leases
2. Active management of the landowner-tenant relationship through effective communication and recognition of incentives
3. Calculating an equitable lease using cost of production budgets, price and yield expectations, and other market-based information

There is no cost to attend.

Andrea Burns Ford County Extension
Phone: 620-227-4542
Email: aburns@ksu.edu

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Mykel Taylor joined the Department of Agricultural Economics as an Assistant Professor in 2011. Her research and extension programs are focused in the areas of crop marketing and farm management. She grew up on a cattle ranch in Montana and attended Montana State University majoring in Agribusiness Management. Her PhD in Economics is from North Carolina State University. Mykel has worked in extension positions at both Kansas State University and Washington State University. Some of her current research areas include measuring basis risk for commodity grains, understanding the implications of food safety and country of origin labeling on meat demand, and estimating land values for crop and pasture land in Kansas.



Adult Mental Health First Aid A professional development training for K-State Research and Extension Employees and Community Partners

Hold the Date Notification

February 19-Tuesday- Hutchinson

February 20- Wednesday- Abilene

February 21- Thursday-Colby

February 26- Tuesday- Parsons

February 27- Wednesday- Lawrence

March 5- Tuesday- Dodge City



Training Description -Mental health issues affect all of society in some way, shape or form. It is estimated that one in four Americans will have a diagnosable mental disorder at some point in their lives.

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders.

This 8-hour training gives you the skills needed to reach out and provide initial support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem and help connect them to appropriate care.

Participants will learn a 5-step action plan with skills and resources to help individuals who are experiencing a mental health crisis.

Registration will be \$30/person which includes lunch, snacks and training materials.

Registration is limited to 30 at each of the training locations.

If you want to learn more about Mental Health First Aid training before registering, there will be an **"Introduction to Mental Health First Aid"** overview session presented by Monica Walker, Grant County Agent and Certified Mental Health First Aid Instructor, on February 11 (3:15 p.m.-4:15 p.m., Bluemont Hotel 5th floor conference room). This overview session will also be available via live-stream. Details provided prior to February 11.

This overview session is designed to help inform participants and encourage registration for one of the 8-hour Adult MHFA trainings scheduled for KSRE. Watch for registration details in the KSRE Tuesday Letter and email communication for the MHFA training.

The Adult Mental Health First Aid training is provided in partnership with the Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas.

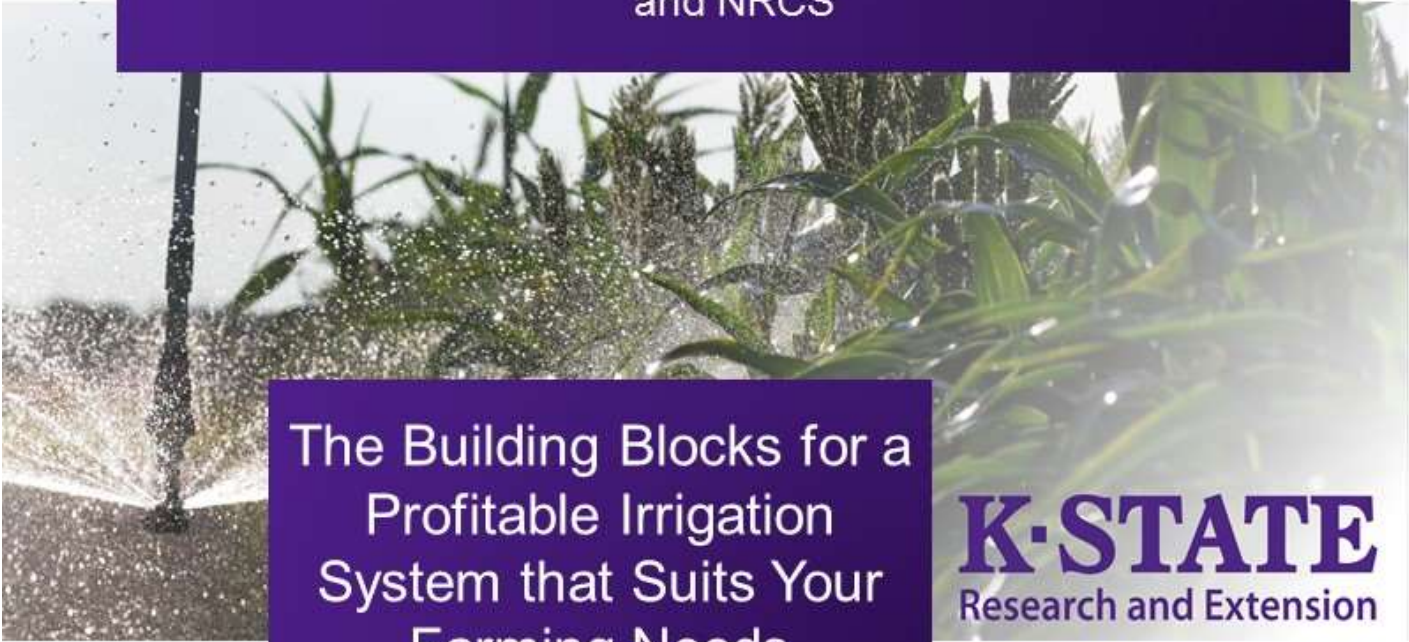
If you have additional questions please contact one of the following:

Gayle Price-	gprice@ksu.edu	620-820-6123
Trudy Rice-	trice@ksu.edu	785-532-5840
Robin Reid-	robinreid@ksu.edu	785-532-0964
Monica Walker-	monicawalker@ksu.edu	620-356-1721
Sharolyn Jackson-	sharolyn@ksu.edu	785-532-2273

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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 Gayle Price, 620-820-6123.
Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

K-State Research and Extension Pawnee County, Ag System
and NRCS



The Building Blocks for a
Profitable Irrigation
System that Suits Your
Farming Needs

K-STATE
Research and Extension

January 16, 2019
11 to 2 p.m.

At the J.A. Haas Exhibit
Building
403 East 18th
Larned, Kansas

Speakers:
Johnathon Aguilar
Extension Specialist
Water Resources

**The Foundations of
Irrigation**

- Sprinklers
- Sub Surface Drip
- Flood
- Cost Share

The Extra's

- Chemigation and Fertigation
- Soil Moisture Probes
Irrigation Scheduling
- Ag Sense/ Technology
- Different Irrigation Packages
- Diversified Insurance

**Meal provided by Pawnee County
Extension Office and Ag Systems.**

**No COST, but RSVP is requested by
Pawnee County Extension office at 620-
285-6901 or email Kyle at
kkgrant@ksu.edu**

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Research and Extension

Pawnee 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 Kyle Grant ,620-804-2568 or 620-285-6901

Cover Crops Meeting

January 10, 2019

1:00 P.M.

Pratt Area 4-H Center, Pratt, KS

Agenda include: How to Get the Most out of Grazing Cover Crops; How to Use Cover Crops for Weed Control and a Q & A Session. This program is free to attend, but please RSVP to 620-672-6121.



Risk Assessed Marketing Workshop: Limited Irrigation Corn in Western Kansas

Tuesday, January 29, 2019, 8:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

Grant County Civic Center

1000 W. Patterson, Ulysses, KS

With increasing constrained subsurface irrigation water supplies in Western Kansas, there is a need to understand how Limited Irrigation Crop Insurance and Associated Written Agreements can be used in farmers' pre-harvest crop risk management strategies. This RAM workshop will focus on: 1) limited irrigation crop insurance tools in this area of declining water availability, and 2) corn market outlook and marketing tools and strategies to consider for use in 2019.

Following the fall 2018 harvest in early December 2018, corn prices in Western Kansas were at or below most farm's cost of production. Surviving this corn market downturn that is at risk to continue through at least fall 2019 will be the focus of this limited Irrigation Corn Risk Assessed Marketing (RAM) workshop.

Workshop topics include: Limited Irrigation Crop Insurance Choices (2019 Corn); Pre-harvest Pricing Crop Insurance Sales (Forward Contracts-Basis-Options); and Farm Bill 2019 (A first look at ARC vs. PLC choices). Early registration is \$15 but increases to \$25 at the door day of event. The fee includes lunch, coffee/donuts and workshop materials. Limited seating of 35 is available. Preregistration is available online at www.northwest.k-state.edu/events/ram_workshop. Or register by calling Grant County Extension Office at 620-356-1721.

Regional Farmers Market Workshop

Friday, February 8, 2019, 8:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Ford County Fair Building

901 W. Park Street, Dodge City, KS

The Kansas Department of Agriculture, K-State Research and Extension and the Kansas Department of Health Environment will host six regional workshops in February 2019 to assist farmers' market vendors and managers.

Kansas farmers' market not only provide a fresh food source, but also stimulate the local economy. In 2018, 95 farmers' markets were registered with KDA's Central Registration of Farmers' Markets. "Farmers' markets provide growers a wonderful opportunity to have real interaction with consumers, and a chance to tell their farm's story," said Londa Nwadike, consumer food safety specialist with K-State Research and Extension and the University of Missouri. "It's also important for farmers to understand certain legal, safety and financial parameters before choosing to sell at a farmers' market."

Workshop topics will vary slightly by location. Highlighted topics include: Vendor Marketing and Communications; Pest Control and Soil Health; Regulations on Selling Meat, Eggs and Poultry; and Sales Tax for Vendors. KDA's weights and measures program will also offer free scale certification at the workshops for attendees.

Registration for the workshop is now open and is \$20 per participant. Registration includes lunch; however, lunch will only be guaranteed to those participants who register prior to the respective workshop date. Registration forms can be found at <https://www.fromthelandofkansas.com/page/farmers-market-regional-workshops> or at the Ford County Extension Office. For more information, contact Lexi Wright, KDA's *From the Land of Kansas* marketing coordinator, at 785-564-6755 or Lexi.Wright@ks.gov.

AG UPDATE

Wildfire Season in Kansas Projected to Start Earlier

Slight Increase in Fire Weather Predicted as Communities Prepare for the 2019 Wildfire Season

Southwest and Central Kansas face an elevated threat of wildfire in the 2019 season, according to projections by the Kansas Mesonet and National Weather Service. The news came as Kansas Forest Service, Kansas Division of Emergency Management and the Office of the State Fire Marshall officials gathered in Wichita for the Kansas 2019 Wildfire Outlook Seminar on December 12. The seminar was designed to update firefighters and emergency managers on the predicted wildfire season.

Understanding weather conditions and climate trends is a key aspect of fighting and preparing for wildfires in Kansas. “We are seeing increased fuel loads in this region because of the late summer rains we received,” said Chip Redmond, mesonet manager and assistant scientist in the Weather Data Library at Kansas State University. Redmond said that despite above-normal moisture across most of the state this winter, a slightly earlier start to the spring fire season is expected accompanied by an earlier-than-usual spring green up that could add fuel if freeze damage occurs. The combination of factors has heightened fire concerns for any fire weather event in southwest and central part of the state.

The seminar is one way Kansas fire agencies prepare for potential wildfires. In addition to the climatology and weather outlook, speakers reviewed reporting requirements, discussed the building of intrastate and interstate capacity, requesting state resources, aerial firefighting suppression and other topics relevant to local and rural fire departments.

While there was a decrease in acres burned and total number of fires in 2018, the fires of 2016 and 2017 burned over 800,000 acres with a cost of more than \$80 million. Aggressive initial attacks, improved coordination and access to mutual aid kept the impact of wildfires in 2018 to a minimum.

By the end of March 2018, KFS had already conducted more training with fire departments across Kansas than in any other year. “Local fire authorities are building their capacity and coordination to fight wildfires in the state through the training we offer,” said Eric Ward, assistant fire management officer for KFS. “Their initial response and pre-coordination of resources is essential in minimizing the impact of wildfires in Kansas. We are proud to partner with KDEM and OSFM to support their efforts.”

January is National Radon Action Month

Location, location, location – Kansas is fortunate to have the scenic Flint Hills, a relatively low cost of living, and produces a valuable part of our food supply. On the downside, there’s decent chance your home will test positive for radon, an odorless, colorless gas that is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers.

One in four homes in Kansas will test at or above the EPA’s radon action level. The Environmental Protection Agency’s action level of 4.0 picocuries of radon per liter of indoor air. To help raise awareness and encourage people to have homes tested, the EPA has deemed January National Radon Action Month.

Radon occurs naturally in the soil. Its level are low outdoors because its effects are diluted, but indoor levels can build and lead to lung cancer. And Kansas soils generate significant amounts of radon leading to the potential for homes to have elevated concentrations of this naturally-occurring class A carcinogen.

All homeowners are encouraged to test for radon. Test kits are available at the Ford County Extension Office for \$6. They include lab analysis and return postage. Kits can also be ordered online at www.sosradon.org at retail price.

More than 112,000 radon measurements have been reported in Kansas, according to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The agency indicates that the statewide average indoor radon level in Kansas is 4.9 picocuries of radon per liter, which is above the EPA threshold of 4.0.

For homeowners who test and find elevated radon levels in their homes, the most common technique to reduce it is called Active Soil Depressurization. An ASD mitigation system is a permanently-installed pipe-and-fan system that places a direct constant vacuum on the soil beneath the home’s foundation, so the amount of radon that can penetrate into the living space is reduced. More information about radon, testing and mitigation is available at www.kansasradonprogram.org/home or by calling the Kansas Radon Hotline at 1-800-693-5343.

Your Personal Wildland Fire Action Guide

Saving Lives and Property through Advance Planning

The fire season is a year-round reality, requiring firefighters and residents to ready for the threat of wildland fire. K-State Research and Extension, the Kansas State Fire Marshal, Ready, Set, Go! And the Kansas Forest Service have teamed to offer a publication with information on being prepared for the growing wildland fire problem in Kansas. It is not a question of if, but when, the next major wildland fire will occur. Request a copy at the Ford County Extension Office or find it online at

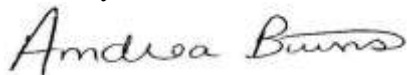
<https://www.wildlandfirersg.org/Portals/18/Resources/States/KS/Kansas%20Guide.pdf>.

Ford County K-State Research & Extension
100 Gunsmoke
Dodge City, KS 67801

January/February 2019

This newsletter contains lots of information about many upcoming winter meetings. I hope you will find several that interest you. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at (620)227-4542 or e-mail me at aburns@ksu.edu.

Sincerely,



Andrea Burns
Ford County Extension Agent
Agriculture & Natural Resources



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Extension Districts and U.S. Department
of Agriculture Cooperating.*

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