

Note from the Director

Greetings,

When our office transitioned to work remotely March 16, I expected it to be for three weeks--not months. Currently, July 4 is our KSRE restart date. However, despite our doors being closed, our staff continues to provide the most timely, relevant educational resources needed to survive and thrive during this crisis. Resourceful and innovative is our new "norm" as we quickly adapt to best practices for communicating with residents. Extension was born during the Civil War when common people were often isolated, fearful and forgotten. Extension workers filled that void by providing what people needed to survive and thrive. Today, our mission to improve the quality of life for citizens continues. In our inaugural newsletter, we update you on programs and resources designed to enhance your life at this critical time. Let us know how you're doing.

Kindly,

Dr. Nozella L. Brown, Director

Community Vitality - Dr. Nozella Brown, County Extension Director

The vitality of our community is front and center as we face this COVID enemy. Our UG estimates this crisis is costing millions of dollars in lost revenue. A recent Extension survey shows that Kansans believe their most pressing issues are personal and community health/safety and local economy & jobs. My role as CV educator, is to connect university resources to our local government, businesses, and non-profits to create a vision of sustainability across geographical, sociological and political boundaries. Weekly, I meet with the Unified Government department heads to learn their needs and to share our resources for the betterment of the community. During this crisis, I've informed these leaders of timely resources tailored to address our community needs, including, food resources, food safety protocols, handwashing reminders, parenting assistance and youth development opportunities. I also connected agencies and small businesses seeking information and assistance during this time. To learn more about the resources CV offers, including tips for financial stress, visit our webpage at https://www.wyandotte.k-state.edu/program_areas/community-vitality/community_vitality/index.html or contact me at nlbrown2@ksu.edu or 913-302-7076.

4-H Youth Development - Jessie Carr, Agent and Debra Sweeten, Program Assistant

Head, Heart, Hands, and Health make up the four Hs of 4-H. These four values are a part of every 4-H event, program, project and all things in between. We see 4-H'ers acting upon these values not only during 4-H events, but in their everyday lives through community, education and even home life. The 4-H Pledge incorporates the four Hs and serves as a guide for youth and adults alike: I pledge my HEAD to clearer thinking, my HEART to greater loyalty, my HANDS to larger service, and my HEALTH to better living for my club, my community, my country and my world. With all of the uncertainty that we have seen over the last several months we can be certain that 4-H remains. We remain dedicated to providing opportunities for exploring interests, learning new skills, developing tomorrows citizens and leaders, and more. In Wyandotte County, 4-H staff continues to support youth, families, volunteers and communities. We are committed to providing meaningful opportunities for all youth in our communities during this time. If you'd like to learn more about the four Hs of 4-H and how to be involved, contact Jessie Carr, 4-H Youth Development Agent. carrjessie@ksu.edu or 785-433-1949.

EFNEP - Lauren Cooper, Nutrition Assistant

During this difficult time, it's imperative that the community stays connected. After speaking with several organizations, there has been lots of information exchanged regarding resources that residents are in desperate need of due to the effects of COVID -19. In turn, sharing the information with other agencies in the county has been very beneficial in not only supporting the agency, but also giving the families of Wyandotte County resources they need to build a sense of hope and resilience.

In addition to community outreach, education creates understanding and new perspectives. Staying informed through reading and webinars such as how various forms of trauma in life affects personal outcomes, yet there is a spirit of tenacity. As we continue to adjust to "new norms" please treat others with care, patience, and empathy. As a nutrition assistant I provide classes on physical activity, healthy eating and food safety in the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program. At this time there are no face-to-face classes being held, however, there is the option of individual classes via phone or zoom. If you are interested in a class I can be reached at (913) 283-5548 or email at lacooper@ksu.edu.

SNAP-Ed- Pamela Stovall & Nikki Flagler, Nutrition Educators

Throughout April the SNAP-Ed Team has been working hard to contact all their community partners to collect information to create a resource guide for the public. The resource guide will provide information about available resources for those in need within Wyandotte county. Keeping in contact with our partners also allows us to help them serve their clients. As they prepare information and resources for their clients, we also refer them to links with printable handouts and educational materials.

They have been receptive and appreciative of the information they have received from us. We have also been exploring virtual education opportunities. Currently, we are practicing how to effectively implement online programming to the public and assessing the barriers our audience may have.

Pam, 913-299-9300 ext. 111 or parelif@ksu.edu or Nikki, 913-299-9300 ext. 113 or nhaffner11@ksu.edu.

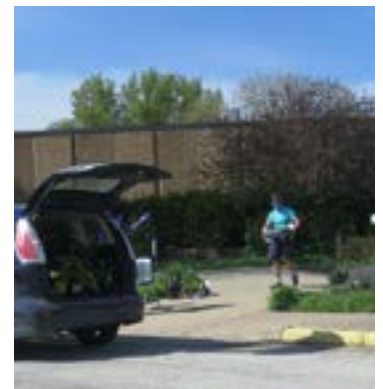


Lawn and Garden - Lynn Loughary, Agent

Thanks to our community for participating in our first ONLINE PLANT SALE! We had 146 customers purchase 507 vegetables and 464 perennials! All of the proceeds from the sale will be funding horticulture demonstration gardens and community education programs throughout Wyandotte County.

The Extension Master Gardeners are very thankful for the community's support and look forward to an in-person and possibly online sale next spring. The in-person sale allows our team to share plant selection information and care instructions in person via online.

Remember that we are still working to assist clients with lawn and garden questions at lloughar@ksu.edu.



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Wyandotte County

Family and Consumer Sciences, Family and Home - Dr. Chiquita Miller, Agent

One of the most important activities for preparing children to succeed as a reader is reading aloud together. Kayla Carter an Intern from Baker University experienced a variety of in-person programming and projects with KSRE here in Wyandotte County. When Covid-19 emerged a new plan of action was implemented. Creating this reading program served as an educational and social engagement for the children and their families. “Read aloud with Kayla” on Wednesday’s at 12 noon, using Facebook live as a platform for increased literacy. Four books were selected; “I got the Rhythm” aired on 4/15/20 with 82 views,” It Takes a Village” 4/24/20 with 87 views, The Race Car Alphabet 4/29/20 with 80 views. The last book will air on May 5th celebrating all of the 2020 graduates with “Oh, the Places You’ll Go? “ Reading books aloud to children stimulates their imagination and expands their understanding of the world. Contact Chiquita at 913-299-9300 ext. 106 or chmiller@ksu.edu.



Family and Consumer Sciences, Health and Nutrition - Lori Wuellner, Agent

Community:

- Working with community partners like the Turner Recreation Commission, United Health Care and the Family Conservancy, we are working together to share alternative educational opportunities with their user groups due to classes and events being migrated to online learning.

Classes:

- Stay tuned the Dining with Diabetes program is being updated for online learning! The program will be “rolled out” soon. Wyandotte County Extension has offered to be a pilot program.



Communication:

- Want to be added to my weekly emails? Send an email to lwuellne@ksu.edu or call 913-299-9300 ext. 107

Contact Us

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Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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