Iris Walk in the Demo Garden
6:00pm Tuesday, May 12
Reno County Master Gardener Demo Garden on the HCC Campus

Join Reno County Extension Master Gardener volunteer Judy Eckhoff on an Iris Walk in the Demo Garden. Judy will share information on the many iris varieties and how to grow them. She will also lead a tour of the irises growing in the demo garden, including a historic collection of irises dating back to the 1850’s. The demo garden is located in the center of the Hutchinson Community College Campus near the pond and tennis courts. This event is free and open to the public.
Freeze Damage in Wheat

There are a number of key factors in determining freeze damage: the stage of development of the wheat, the density of the stand and condition of the plants, the amount of residue on the soil surface, the extent and duration of low temperatures, temperature gradients within the field, soil moisture, and the wind speed, Shroyer explained.

* **Stage of development.** Wheat that hasn’t started to joint yet might suffer damage to the existing foliage, but the growing points will be protected by the soil and should escape injury. This wheat will have cosmetic damage to the leaves that will show up almost immediately. Jointing wheat can usually tolerate temperatures in the mid to upper 20’s with no significant injury. But if temperatures fall into the low 20’s or even lower for several hours, the lower stems, leaves or developing head can sustain injury.

* **Density of the stand and condition of the plants.** If the stand is thick, that will tend to reduce the extent of freeze damage as the warmth of the soil will radiate up into the canopy. On the other hand, well-fertilized succulent wheat has often sustained more freeze injury than wheat that is not as well fertilized. Thin stands, which are common this year, are at higher risk of injury because the air can penetrate the stand more easily.

* **Residue.** Many times there is more freeze damage in no-till fields because the residue acts as a blanket and doesn’t allow the heat from the soil to radiate up into the plant canopy.

* **Extent and duration of low temperatures.** Significant injury becomes much more likely if the temperatures in the damaging range last for two hours or longer.

* **Soil moisture.** There is often less freeze injury at a given temperature when soils are wet than when dry. Wetter soils tend to radiate a little more warmth than dry soils.

* **Wind speed.** Windy conditions during the nighttime hours when temperatures reach their lows will reduce the amount of warmth radiating from the soil and increase the chance of injury.

* **Temperature gradients within the field.** Low spots in the field are almost always the first to have freeze injury. The coldest air tends to settle in the low areas, especially under calm wind conditions.

There are many possible scenarios after a freeze, and things do not always go according to “the book,” Shroyer said. He advised producers to keep watching their fields closely over the next 7 to 10 days for the following:

* The color of newly emerging leaves. If they are nice and green, that probably indicates the tiller is alive. If newly emerging leaves are yellow, that probably indicates the tiller is dead. The color of existing leaves is not terribly important, except for the flag leaf. Existing leaves will almost always turn bluish-black after a hard freeze, and give off a silage odor. Those leaves are burned back and dead, but that in itself is not a problem as long as newly emerging leaves are green.

* The color of the developing head or growing point in wheat that has jointed. As long as heads are light green and turgid, the head in that tiller is fine. If the head is whitish and flaccid, it has died.

* Ice in the stems. If there was ice in the stems below the first node the morning of the freeze, those tillers may be damaged -- although not always -- and may not produce grain. You may see split stems from ice accumulation.

* The integrity of the stem. If the wheat lodged immediately after the freeze, that indicates stem damage. Later tillers may eventually cover the damaged tillers. Even if there is no immediate lodging, look for lesions or crimps anywhere on the stems. If you see that, it usually means the wheat will lodge at some point during the season. If the stems look undamaged, that’s a good sign.

The best thing producers can do for the first few days is simply walk the fields to observe lodging, crimped stems and damaged leaves, the K-State agronomist said.

“Be patient. Do not take any immediate actions as a result of the freeze, such as destroying the field for recropping. It will take several days of warm weather to accurately evaluate the extent of damage,” he said.

After several days, producers should split open some stems and check the developing head, he said.

“Where stems and/or growing points were killed by the freeze, start looking for new tiller
growth coming from the crown area. In fact, look for new tiller growth even if you think the stems look okay. Sometimes tillers can be killed but will not show any symptoms for quite a while. In those cases, the first sign that the tillers are dead is the sudden growth of new tillers at the base of the plant,” Shroyer said.

If secondary tillers begin growing normally and fill out the stand, the wheat may look ragged because the main tillers are absent, he added. Watch out for bird cherry oat aphids and other potential insect or disease problems on these late-developing tillers, he said.

“Enough tillers may survive to produce good yields, if spring growing conditions are good. If both the main and secondary tillers are injured, the field may eventually have large areas that have a yellowish cast and reduced yield potential,” he said.

More information on freeze damage to wheat is available in Spring Freeze Injury to Kansas Wheat, K-State Research and Extension publication C646, available at county and district Extension offices and online at Spring Freeze Injury to Kansas Wheat.
Flaxseed contains a high amount of the phytoestrogen, lignan. It is similar to the female hormone estrogen. So concern exists whether women with breast cancer can safely consume flaxseed.

Laboratory animal studies have shown reduced growth of cancer cells with flaxseed lignans. Cell growth studies show reduced stickiness and movement of breast cancer cells with lignans. This reduces the ability of the cancer to spread or metastasize. Very few human studies have been conducted on the usefulness of flaxseed against cancer. The studies that have been done were small and had conflicting results.

For more information, see the following:
- American Cancer Society—Flaxseed
- Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics—Oncology Nutrition
- Linus Pauling Institute—Lignans

Stuck in a Midday Slump?
Boost your midday energy with these tips:
1. Skip the sugar and simple carbohydrates. Try some nuts or whole grain snacks.
2. Get up and walk! It will help you sleep better too.
3. Don’t skip breakfast. Without it, you are famished and grumpy by lunch.
4. Reduce caffeine intake. It may give you a jolt, but you can crash just as fast!
5. Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated.

Crickets—a Food for the Future?
Finding sustainable foods that require less water, food, energy and land is a challenge to feed 9 billion people by 2050. In some parts of the world, munching on crickets is mainstream to get protein into their diet. In the United States, the idea of eating crickets is emerging as “the gateway bug.”

There are a handful of companies raising edible crickets. Currently, the demand is greater than the supply. Production is labor intensive and inefficient. Most crickets are fed chicken feed because it is widely available.

Ground cricket powder is making its way into protein bars. It is high in protein and has a nutty, roasted flavor. Other options may include cookies and chips.

Source: http://futurefood2050.com/us-cricket-farming-scales-up/

Edible insects are showing up in snacks and entrees. Would you eat them?

Food Allergies and Genes
A genetic link has been discovered that may indicate the development of food allergies, specifically peanut allergies. While an important finding, other molecular triggers may also contribute to the development of food allergies.

Researchers at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health studied the DNA of 2,759 children and their parents. They found the genomic region on chromosome six is related to peanut allergies. But not everyone with these particular genes develops a peanut allergy. Some have epigenetic changes that alter the expression of a gene. The level of these changes regulates whether the peanut allergy actually occurs.

More research needs to take place to get a better understanding of genes and food allergies.

Source: IFT Weekly Newsletter, Mar. 4, 2015
www.nature.com/ncomms/2015/150224/ncomms7304/full/ncomms7304.html

Peanuts are one of eight foods that cause 90 percent of food allergic reactions.

Hot Sauce Catches Fire!
One of the fastest growing foods is also one of the hottest! It is estimated that 56 percent of households use some type of hot sauce.

So why do we like to burn our taste buds? The capsaicin in hot peppers sends a burning sensation to the brain which releases endorphins. These are natural painkillers that gives us a physical rush, much like a runner’s high.

The southern states eat more fiery sauce than other regions. Consumers on the east coast consume the least. Currently, Asian Sriracha sauce is the latest trend at home and in restaurants.

Charleston hot peppers at varying stages of maturity. USDA/ARS
MEDICARE & What You Need to Know

Instructors: Kay Schlabach, 12 years’ experience SHICK (Senior Health Insurance Counselor)
Jennifer Schroeder, Reno County Extension Office, SHICK (Senior Health Insurance Counselor)

The Medicare class includes the following:
1. Do you need help filling out forms for Medicare or Social Security?
2. Do you need help paying for Medications?
3. If you have Medicare C and want to change….can you?
4. When do you get Medicare?
5. What is Medicare?
6. What is Medicaid?
7. If your under 65 years old, what help can you qualify for?
8. When can I retire and start my benefits?
9. What if I have employer group coverage, is Medicare the same as Affordable Health Care?
10. Does Medicare cover, glasses and dental?
11. Does Medicare A & B have prescription insurance?

Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas (SHICK) is a free program offering Kansans an opportunity to talk with trained, community volunteers and get answers to questions about Medicare and other insurance issues. SHICK provides you with many resources that will help you with your struggle through the Medicare maze.

When: Second Wednesday of every month beginning January 2015-December 2015. April 8th, May 13th, June 17th, July 8th, August 12th, September 9th, October 14th, November 11th and December 9th. (November 11th and December 9th we will be enrolling people in drug plans).

Where: Hutchinson Public Library Basement Computer Lab

Time: 10:00 am to 11:00 am

For more information call the Reno County Extension Office (620) 662-2371.
2015 Master Gardener Summer Garden Tour

Be sure to mark your calendars for the 2015 Reno County Extension Master Gardener Summer Garden Tour on Saturday, June 13 from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Highlights of the tour include a shade garden, a rose garden, a fruit and vegetable garden, lovely landscaping with a wide variety of blooming plants, a sculpture garden, and a visit to the Master Gardener demonstration garden. Educational programs will be offered at each location and Master Gardener volunteers will be present at each of the 6 sites to answer gardening.

Cost:
$8 per person advance purchase
$10 per person on day of the tour
Children 12 & younger are free

Advanced tickets may be purchased at the Reno County Extension Office, Dillon Nature Center, Bornholdt Plantland, Hutchinson area Stutzmans Garden Centers, and all Dillons stores in Hutchinson. Tickets may also be purchased the day of the tour at any of the garden sites.

The Master Gardener program is an educational outreach of K-State Research & Extension. It utilizes trained volunteers to assist people and their communities through horticultural information and activities. Tour proceeds go to support Master Gardener community education programs, demonstration gardens at the Reno County Extension Office and Hutchinson Community College, and youth programs which include Youth Lawnmower Safety Clinic, Junior Master Gardeners, and 4-H.

For more information, contact the Reno County Extension Office at 620-662-2371, email: p paulsen@ksu.edu or visit www.hutchgardentour.com

Fertilize Irrigated Cool-Season Lawns in May

May is an excellent time to fertilize cool-season lawns such as tall fescue and Kentucky bluegras because of drought and do not need this fertilization.

May is a good time to fertilize because the springtime flush of growth characteristic of these grasses has tapered off, so the fertilizer you apply will be less likely to cause excessive shoot growth than if you had fertilized in April. Slow-release nitrogen sources are ideal. These nitrogen sources promote controlled growth, which is desirable as the stressful summer weather approaches.

Relatively few fertilizers available to the homeowner supply ALL of the nitrogen in the slowly available market include cottonseed meal, alfalfa-based fertilizers, and any other products derived from plants or animals. (Bloodmeal is an exception, and contrary to popular belief, the nitrogen it supplies is quickly available.) These products are all examples of natural organic fertilizers. They typically contain less than 10 percent nitrogen by weight, so compared to most synthetic fertilizers, more product must be applied to get the same amount of nitrogen.

Translation: they are more expensive! Apply enough to give the lawn one pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. For example, if the fertilizer is 6 percent nitrogen by weight, you will need to apply almost 17 pounds of fertilizer product per 1,000 square feet. Summer lawn fertilizers that contain at least a portion of the nitrogen as slow-release are fine to use as well. Be sure to follow label directions. If cost is prohibitive, you can use the less expensive quick-release (i.e., soluble) sources, but split the application into two doses as follows: apply enough to give the lawn 0.5 lb nitrogen per 1,000 square feet in May and again in early June.
Attracting Beneficial Insects

Information from University of New Mexico Extension and USDA

Beneficial insects are naturally occurring insects that help control garden pests, whether by eating the pest, eating the pest’s eggs, or parasitizing the pest. There is a wide variety of naturally occurring beneficial insects that can help keep other insect pests under control if they are given a chance. Like all insects, beneficial species have three basic needs – food, water, and shelter. As far as food is concerned, although these species are predatory or parasitic for at least part of their life cycle, many of them need floral resources (nectar and/or pollen) at various times. Such resources can sustain these insects when prey is scarce, help them live longer, or lay more eggs. One way of attracting these insects to your garden or yard is to plant a mixture of so-called ‘insectary plants,’ which can provide nectar and pollen all season long if properly cared for. Since beneficial insects differ in the size and structure of their mouthparts, not all flowers are equally accessible to all insects. To benefit the maximum number of beneficial insects, the flower mixture should contain a diversity of species with different bloom periods, flower sizes, structures, and colors.

Reducing the use of chemical pesticides in the garden is also essential. Most pesticides that kill garden pests are also going to kill beneficial insects and may leave a residue that lasts the rest of the season.

The following table provides a list of beneficial insects, the pests the beneficial insects prey on, and the plants or habitats that attract the beneficial insects.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beneficial</th>
<th>Pests Controlled</th>
<th>Plants/Habitat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assassin Bug</td>
<td>Many insects including flies and large caterpillars</td>
<td>Permanent plantings for shelter (e.g., windbreaks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bees &amp; Butterflies</td>
<td>None but important for pollination</td>
<td>Pea, borage, parsley, and aster families, milkweeds, butterfly bush, others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Braconid Wasp</td>
<td>Armyworm, cabbage worm, codling moth, gypsy moth, European corn borer, aphid, caterpillars, and other insects</td>
<td>Nectar plants with small flowers, yarrow, sunflower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damsel Bug</td>
<td>Aphids, thrips, leafhopper, treehopper, caterpillar</td>
<td>Aster family, yarrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground Beetle</td>
<td>Slug, snail, cutworm, Colorado potato beetle, gypsy moth, caterpillars, weed seeds</td>
<td>Amaranth, bunch grasses, permanent plantings for shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hover Fly</td>
<td>Aphid</td>
<td>Carrot and aster family (coreopsis, sunflowers, goldenrod)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lacewing</td>
<td>Soft bodied insects including aphid, thrips, European corn borer, mealybug, scale, mites</td>
<td>Carrot and aster family (coreopsis, sunflowers, goldenrod)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ladybug beetle</td>
<td>Aphids, spider mite, European corn borer, mealybug</td>
<td>Aster family, butterfly weed, native grasses, giant hyssop, yarrow, black locust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minute Pirate Bug</td>
<td>Thrips, spider mite, leafhopper, corn earworm, small caterpillars and other insects</td>
<td>Carrot and aster family (daisies, sunflowers, yarrow, goldenrod), elderberry, potentilla, giant hyssop, willows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rove beetle</td>
<td>Aphids, nematode, flies</td>
<td>Native grasses, permanent plantings for shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spider</td>
<td>Many insects</td>
<td>Carrot and aster family, giant hyssop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spined soldier bug</td>
<td>Armyworm, sawfly, Colorado potato beetle, Mexican bean beetle</td>
<td>Aster family (sunflowers, yarrow)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tachinid fly</td>
<td>Cutworm, armyworm, May beetle, gypsy moth, squash bug</td>
<td>Carrot and aster family, amaranth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiger beetle</td>
<td>Many insects</td>
<td>Amaranth, bunch grasses, permanent plantings for shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chalcid wasps</td>
<td>Spruce budworm, cotton bollworm, tomato hornworm, corn earworm, corn borer, coding moth</td>
<td>Carrot and aster family (daisies, sunflowers, yarrow, goldenrod), potentilla, giant hyssop</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gardening in the Age of Pinterest: Dubious Online Garden Tips
by John Porter, West Virginia University Extension Agent

Social media have made it easy to share information the world around. It has made it easy for people to connect and interact more than humans ever have before.

Gardening is a common theme on Facebook, Twitter and, especially, Pinterest. Ideas are easily shared through these sites. It’s great to see such interest in gardening.

Sometimes, however, these ideas should be taken with a grain of salt. It turns out that you can’t believe everything you read online (surprise, surprise).

Ideas coming from anecdotal observations that haven’t been confirmed or tested through research make their rounds on the Internet, causing frustration — and even danger — for unassuming gardeners. I like to call it “gardening in the age of Pinterest.”

Finding accurate information
As an extension agent, it is my job to teach people about gardening using science-based, and usually peer-reviewed, information that comes from research. This allows me to be confident in the information I provide, that it has been researched by numerous people and has been found to be consistent in a number of settings and conditions.

In the online world, it can be hard to figure out the source of information being shared. Sometimes, the information comes from handed-down information and sometimes it comes from anecdotal information observed by one or a handful of individuals. Sometimes the information comes from groups or individuals with an agenda for or against a certain thing.

Whenever you see something online, especially a questionable “home remedy,” be sure to use your critical thinking skills and do a little research before you add the practice to your own garden.

Land-grant universities are good sources of information. To make sure you get science-based gardening information, you can find university extension resources online. The easiest way to find university information while you are searching online is to add the command “site:.edu” to your search.

If you are on Facebook, I would suggest checking out The Garden Professors. It is a group of professors and extension professionals from around the country that help translate science-based information for home gardeners, and often do some garden myth-busting. There is also a Garden Professors blog at blogs.extension.org/gardenprofessors. (Full disclosure: Yours truly is one of The Garden Professors in the group. Sometimes my articles are shared through the page.)

Misinformation found online
Following are examples of garden misinformation I have found online. The examples come from a variety of sources. Always remember to fact-check!

Homemade pesticide alternatives:
While using pesticides is a matter of personal choice, many people are turning to homemade alternatives for some pest control. While I do think that some of these do work, there are some definite duds circulating out there.

One that I’ve seen is using baking soda instead of fungicide. While changing pH will limit fungal growth, dry baking soda will not have an effect and will quickly wash off.

I’ve also seen insecticides using tobacco. This is a huge no-no! Tobacco carries tobacco mosaic virus, which infects a wide variety of plants including tomatoes, potatoes, etc. The virus can even survive on a smoker’s hand or cigarette butt even after burning.

Pollinators only like native plants:
This is a new one, spurred on by a number of individuals. The premise is that native bees and butterflies can only survive on native plants. While natives are good, there are many plant qualities that make them attractive and nutritious to pollinators. A diverse garden is best for attracting pollinators.

Compost tea suppresses disease:
The practice of making compost tea involves bubbling air through a slurry of water and compost. The idea is to spray this on plants to reduce diseases, since the good bacteria from the tea will keep bad bacteria at bay.

Research by fellow Garden Professor Linda Chalker-Scott, from Washington State University, and others shows that there is no disease suppression (most likely because the bacteria will quickly die off when dried). Other researchers have shown that it doesn’t have any nutritional value for plants, either. It is sort of a garden “magic elixir” or snake oil.

Biodynamic gardening:
This covers a wide range of topics that have been around for decades (or centuries) but have renewed interest from online gardeners. An Austrian teacher and occultist developed a biodynamic gardening system in the early 1920s that included things such as burying a cow horn full of manure underneath your plants.

While that may seem odd, the most common tenet is gardening by the moon phase. This is a common practice in Appalachia that has more to do with folklore or even a belief system (most specifically pagan belief/practice) rather than science (it has never been scientifically proven to have an effect).

While it may not do any harm to plant by the moon phase (and scientists will argue that it has no benefit, but many people believe it does), I’ve seen some take the information to extreme. I once sat through an excruciating talk by someone who said that the moon controlled water uptake by plants.

While many people I talk with hold firm to their belief in gardening by the moon and using an almanac for scheduling, I have to steer clear of any such recommendations since it has no modern scientific basis.
Controlling Wild Violets in Lawns

One of the most difficult weeds to control in lawns is the wild violet. Even combination products that contain 2,4-D, MCPP and dicamba such as Trimec, Weed-Out and most formulations of Weed-B-Gon do not do a good job. Products with triclopyr give much better control though more than one treatment will likely be needed. A couple of products that contain triclopyr on the homeowner side are Turflon Ester and Weed-B-Gon Chickweed, Clover & Oxalis. (Note: There are several formulations of Weed-B-Gon but only Weed-B-Gon Chickweed, Clover & Oxalis contains triclopyr.)

Both products listed above are labeled for tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass. Do not use products containing triclopyr on bermudagrass as severe injury will occur. Weed-B-Gon Chickweed Clover & Oxalis is labeled for buffalograss and zoysia (Turflon Ester is not) but lawns will likely show some temporary browning after application.

Spray only on calm days and when temperatures are below 90 degrees to avoid damage to nearby plants.

Plant Annual Flowers by Soil Temperature

When to plant annual flowers is based on soil temperature and not the calendar. Some cultivars tolerate cool soil, while others require warm soil. An easy way to gauge the soil temperature is to simply stick a thermometer about 4" in the ground. You can take a measurement in the early morning and late afternoon to get a high and low for the day, then average them. K-State also has a good weather data library that shows soil temperatures at weather stations throughout the state.

When the soil temp is around 65 degrees, petunias, begonias, allysum and snapdragons can go in the ground. More sensitive crops like vinca, celosia, lantana, melampodium, zinnias, and pentas need soil temperatures of 68-70 degrees. These are the flowers that thrive in the heat of the summer and need those high temperatures. Most everything else falls in between.

This is the time to have patience. Wait until soil temperatures are up for a couple of days before rushing out to plant. Our most heat tolerant plants tolerate the heat because they love and thrive in warm soils. Cool, damp soils will comprise their root systems and then when the real heat of the summer does finally arrive, they will have few roots to support the plants growth.

Happy planting!

Build a Better Tomato Cage

Unless designed well, tomato cages can have more to do with frustrating gardeners than with penning up plants. They can lean, blow over, collapse, exclude harvesting hands.
Control Your Career Through Professional Development

Professional development is an ongoing process that will help you control your own career and benefit your employer. Even if you’ve attained your college degree, professional development is crucial in staying current and equitable within your field. With the culture of the job market ever changing, workers are more likely to change careers multiple times throughout their professional lives. Therefore, continuous professional development is more important than ever.

This is not only crucial for your current employer, but for future career opportunities as well. According to the article “Job hopping is the new normal for millennials: Three ways to prevent a human resource nightmare” as posted on Forbes.com (http://onforb.es/J1APIL), though estimates vary, it is safe to say that workers will may have between 5 and 15 different jobs throughout their professional lives, with over 90 percent of millennials claiming that they expect to stay in a job for less than 3 years.

Using this logic, millennials (born between 1977 and 1997) starting their careers at age 22 and retiring at age 67, will realize a 45-year professional career.

Let’s put this into a mathematical equation to illustrate:

\[ \frac{45 \text{ (years in career)}}{3 \text{ (years per job)}} = 15 \text{ jobs over course of career} \]

Often times, career advancement is directly associated to accomplishing certain certifications or professional accreditations. Some employers place a higher priority on it than others, however in order to maintain your competitive advantage, you should deem this a high priority for your own career development.

Even if your current employer does not support your career development, it is crucial that you make the investment in yourself. Ultimately, this investment can be used as a negotiating tool for advancement or salary increases. Also, if your employer stifles your career growth, you can make your own determination as to whether continued employment with that employer is in your best interest.

At the end of the day, you are in control of your own destiny. Continued education and professional development should be a high priority, especially if you intend to advance throughout your career.

Great places to search for such opportunities may be industry specific associations or your local community colleges. Often times, certificate programs will fulfill this criteria, make you more equitable and provide you with current skills that you often can implement on your first day back in the office. Making professional development is not simply a luxury, but ultimately a necessity.

Source: Mark Hitchcock, Michigan State Univ. Extension

Links of Interest

Cooperative Extension programs regularly share research and information with other offices and users in different counties and states. The links below may be of interest to you if you’re looking for ideas and information from Extension.

Pinterest:
K-State Research & Extension (www.pinterest.com/ksuresearchext) – 4-H, lawn and garden, food, families, livestock, crops, and more.

Nebraska Extension-Disasters (www.pinterest.com/NEExtDisasters) – Winter safety, flu, business, emergency kits, and power outages.
University of Wyoming Extension
(www.pinterest.com/uwyoextension) – Financial literacy, beneficial and pest insects, soils, and seasonal tips.

Facebook:
Regular updates on timely topics can be found on these pages.

K-State Research & Extension
(www.facebook.com/KStateRE)

Alabama Cooperative Extension System
(www.facebook.com/AlabamaCooperativeExtensionSystem)

University of Missouri Extension
(www.facebook.com/MUExtension)

Blogs:
Reno County Extension Master Gardeners
(renomastergardener.blogspot.com) – Get answers to your gardening questions and keep up with what Master Gardeners have been doing in Reno County.

Money Tip$ (blogs.extension.iastate.edu/moneytips) – Make the most of your money with money tips from Iowa State University Extension & Outreach.

eXtension.org’s Military Families Learning Network (blogs.extension.org/militaryfamilies) – Regular postings about child care, family life, caregiving, and technology.

YouTube:
K-State Research & Extension
(www.youtube.com/user/KSREVideos) – Current Walk Kansas videos, agriculture, gardening, foods, and the Grand Challenges.

North Carolina Cooperative Extension
(www.youtube.com/user/NCExtension) – Kitchen techniques, gardening, and trees.

Community Websites/Social Media
Does your community have a website or social media presence (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)? We're remodeling the Reno County Extension website and would like to link back to your community’s pages in our Community Development section. Send your online link information to jmsteen@ksu.edu. We'll take a look and see if it is a fit for our page.

Weather Radio Frequencies
Part of being prepared for severe weather, regardless of the month, is to have a source of information about the type of weather coming your way. NOAA weather radios are one way to stay informed. Day or night, a weather radio can be programmed to alert you to watches and warnings in your part of the county. Make sure you have the right station programmed into your radio by visiting the National Weather Service NOAA Weather Radio map page for Kansas, then clicking on either the Wichita or Sharon station for coverage areas: http://1.usa.gov/1ctEr5D

(All website addresses in this section are case sensitive)

Flight Details
If you’re picking someone up at the airport and want to check the flight status, or just want to know for your own travel plans, you can easily find the information you need online.

On Google.com, type in your airline name and flight number (example: “Allegiant flight 405”). You’ll be presented with departure and arrival times, and gate information, if available.

On Flightaware.com, type in the airline and flight number, and you'll see the flight map, including current location, speed and altitude. Arrival and departure information is available for the current flight, and historically if you want to know how often the flight has been on time in the past. Not sure of the flight number? Enter the departure and arrival cities for a list of possible matches. A fun feature of Flightaware.com is the ability to see live flight maps over your area. Click on Live Flight Tracking and Browse by Airport. You can click on each plane that shows up on the map, whether it's commercial, corporate, or private pilot, to find details of the flight and plane. Try Hutchinson’s airport as an example: http://flightaware.com/live/airport/KHUT

If you have internet access on your flight, either of these websites can answer the "how much longer?" or "where are we?" questions you, or your younger travelers might have while you’re in the air.