

## D's Notes

### **Dead Leaves on Trees breaking bud Early**

Some of you may have noticed the early leaves have died on trees from the freeze after they broke bud. Fortunately, trees are blessed to have a second bud behind the first. The trees will leaf out again. However, this comes at a cost to the tree in reserves. They may need a little extra care this year. Water, later on is the biggest concern. Water if necessary, around the drip line of the tree.

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### **Tractor Safety Operator's Course to Be Held**

The Extension Councils from Clark, Commanche, Edwards, Ford, Gray, Hodgeman, Meade and Pawnee counties along with Dodge City Community College will be hosting a Tractor Safety Operator's Course on **Saturday, April 30, 2016 at the Ag Tech Building on the Campus of Dodge City Community College.**

The purpose of this course is to provide teenagers with a fuller appreciation and awareness of the needed safety practices around tractors and farm machinery. The law requires any young person, ages 14 to 16 who will be employed by someone other than his or her mother or father on the farm is required to complete a certification course. Any teenager, regardless of age is encouraged to participate. Those that are 14 will receive an operator's permit upon completion of the requirements of the course. Those over 16 do not need a certificate, but are also encouraged to participate.

Topics to be covered include instruments and controls, PTO and hydraulics, maintenance and safety checks along with presentations on fire extinguishers, public road safety and anhydrous ammonia.

Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. at the Ag Tech Building (located just south of the small irrigation system on the Northwest corner the campus of Dodge City Community College. The course runs from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A minimal registration fee covers the noon meal, breaks, handouts and a handbook.

Pre-registration is required by April 22nd. A flyer and registration form can be found online at <http://www.hodgeman.k-state.edu>. You can pre-register by contacting the Hodgeman County Extension Office at 620.357.8321 or by e-mailing [rstithem@ksu.edu](mailto:rstithem@ksu.edu).

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### **Women's Agriculture Night Out**

On Monday, April 25, 2016, at 6:30 pm at the Hodgeman County 4-H Building, Hodgeman County Soil Conservation District and the Hodgeman County Extension Council will be hosting Women's Agriculture Night Out.

There will be a Trade Show and a Pot Luck supper. Meat is being provided. So bring a side dish and enjoy the time.

The guest speaker is Judy Delaney. She will be talking on *AgrAbility*. The vision of *AgrAbility* is to enhance quality of life for farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural workers with disabilities. While the term "disability" often brings to mind conditions such as spinal cord injuries and amputations, *AgrAbility* addresses not only these but also many other conditions, such as arthritis, back impairments, and behavioral health issues.

Through education and assistance, *AgrAbility* helps to eliminate (or at least minimize) obstacles that inhibit success in production agriculture or agriculture-related occupations.