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Hodgeman County Extension Office

D's Notes 04/21/19

Tractor Safety Operator's Course to Be Held

Spring has sprung and many farmers, ranchers and hopefully teenagers are beginning to think about summer employment. In many cases in Southwest Kansas, that may be working on a farm. The Extension Councils from Clark, Comanche, Edwards, Ford, Gray, Hodgeman, Meade and Pawnee counties along with the Walnut Creek Extension District will be hosting a Tractor Safety Operator's Course on **Saturday, May 4, 2019 at the Tech Building on the campus of Dodge City Community College, 2501 North 14th Avenue, in Dodge City.**

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.

Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. at the Tech Building. The course runs from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A minimal registration fee covers the noon meal, breaks and handouts.

Pre-registration is required by April 26th. A flyer and registration form can be found online at www.ford.ksu.edu. You can pre-register by contacting the Hodgeman County Extension Office at 620.357.8321 or by e-mailing rstithem@ksu.edu.

Emergency Livestock Management Workshops Scheduled for Spring

Livestock owners face numerous challenges, including natural disasters like flooding and wildfire and the threat of foreign animal diseases like African Swine Fever and food-and-mouth disease, which have impacted other countries. The Kansas Department of Agriculture works to help Kansas livestock owners, from large feedyards to families with show animals, in preparing for the impact any of these disasters could have on their lives. This spring, KDA will host eight regional workshops to assist Kansans throughout the livestock industry with emergency preparedness.

The workshops will help livestock owners understand which foreign animal diseases are a possible threat to their animals and how an outbreak could impact them as well as the industry as a whole. Attendees will learn what precautions they can take to protect their herds, and how to respond if they do suffer losses due to natural disaster

or disease. The workshops are geared toward all livestock owners, regardless of species or size of their herd.

The Emergency Livestock Management Workshops will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the following dates in the following cities:

Tuesday, April 30 — Great Bend: Great Bend Convention Center
Wednesday, May 1 — Montezuma: Hy-Plains Feedyard
Monday, May 6 — Olathe: Johnson County Research and Extension
Tuesday, May 7 — Mankato: Mankato Livestock Inc.
Wednesday, May 8 — Goodland: Emergency Management Training Facility
Monday, May 13 — El Dorado: Butler County 4-H Building
Thursday, May 16 — Iola: Allen County Courthouse
Monday, May 20 — Manhattan: Kansas Department of Agriculture

All of the workshops are free, and registration is now open for all of the locations at www.agriculture.ks.gov/EmergencyManagement. Registration includes lunch; however, lunch will only be guaranteed to those participants who pre-register. Space is limited to 50 participants. For more information about the Emergency Livestock Management workshops, contact Kelly Oliver, KDA's assistant emergency management coordinator, at 785-564-6608 or Kelly.Oliver@ks.gov.