

K-State Research and Extension News for May 6, 2020

Community Resources for Those in Need

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These past several weeks, K-State Research & Extension in the Marais des Cygnes District has worked to help connect people to community resources. During this this uncertain time, many families find themselves in changing job and income situations. Several resources are posted on the Marais des Cygnes District webpage at www.maraisdescyignes.k-state.edu/. These resources are easy to find on the main page under “Hot Topics,” and *Resources During the COVID 19 Crisis*.

The District has put together two lists, one for Linn County and one for Miami County. Our SNAP-Ed staff worked hard to develop these resource lists as a guide for people looking for additional food access or other assistance in their area. Another resource link posted is titled, *SNAP Eligibility Expansion*. This is a program in Kansas that helps provide nutritious food and other assistance to low-income families. Residents are encouraged to apply as soon as possible to receive recently-updated benefits. Among the updates, households currently receiving SNAP benefits will receive the maximum monthly allotment for April and May. In addition, due to the pandemic the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) has temporarily waived work requirements and training required to receive food assistance. Certification periods for SNAP benefits have been increased from six months to 12 months for most households, and to 24 months for seniors and persons with disabilities. However, to receive the enhanced benefits, a household member must apply through the DCF self service center, which is available at <https://cssp.kees.ks.gov/apspssp/sppNonMed.portal>. That site also lists eligibility requirements and a full list of benefits.

Families whose children may now qualify for free or reduced school lunches should look into applying now, even though Kansas schools are not in session. This is especially important if a household member has lost a job or the household income has changed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Local school districts will have information on how to apply for the free or reduced lunch program. K-State Research and Extension will continue to post resources as they become available, so check our Facebook page and the website regularly.

For more information on nutrition, food safety, health, or family and child development contact the Marais des Cygnes Extension District, or write to fmeastwo@ksu.edu or check out our website: www.maraisdescyignes.k-state.edu