From: Keith VanSkike Agronomy and Natural Resources Agent Twin Creeks Extension District

To: Local News Outlets Week of January 11th 2021

January is Kansas Radon Action Month

K-State Research and Extension (KSRE) and Twin Creeks Extension District along with Midwest Energy is hosting some educational information on social media, print, and radio over the next few months.

Radon is a naturally occurring colorless, odorless, tasteless gas created by the natural decay of uranium in the soil. Long term radon exposure is the number two cause of lung cancer in the U.S. behind only tobacco smoking. According to the Kansas Department of Health & Environment, over 112,000 home radon tests have been conducted in Kansas and 41% of test results have been above the statewide maximum allowed level.

The Twin Creeks Extension District (Norton, Sheridan, Graham and Decatur Counties) have received a grant from Midwest Energy to provide a limited supply of Radon tests at no cost to residents in those counties. Each household is allowed one free test. Along with those free tests, the KSRE will provide anonymous summary information and education to the public regarding Radon testing, exposure and mitigation if needed.

Residents in the Twin Creeks Extension District should contact their local Extension office. Norton- 785-877-5755. Sheridan- 785-675-3268. Graham- 785-421-3411. Decatur- 785-475-8121. Regarding specific instructions to pick up a free Radon test kit compliments of Midwest Energy of Kansas.

Dicamba

Do all dicamba product labels require the additional training? You are required to have additional label-required dicamba training when applying the restricted use dicamba products (Engenia[®], XtendiMax[®], or Tavium[®] with Vaporgrip) applied over-the-top to soybean and cotton.

Where can I get the training for 2021? Virtual and face to face options are available at: https://www.engeniastewardship.com/#/training https://www.roundupreadyxtend.com/stewardship/Pages/default.aspx http://www.syngenta-us.com/herbicides/tavium-application-stewardship

Do I need to attend training if I already did in 2019 or 2020? The labels of these products state that prior to applying this product in the 2021 growing season, all applicators must complete dicamba or auxin-specific training on an annual basis, so even if you attended in 2019 or 2020 you will need to attend a training in 2021 prior to applying these products.

Do I need to be certified to use these products? The new labels state that these formulations are for retail sale to and use only by certified applicators. In the state of Kansas, this means that everyone purchasing and using these products has to either obtain a private applicator license (application to agricultural lands owned or operated by individual) or a commercial applicator license (applicators applying to other people's land for compensation). If you have been applying under someone else's license in the past you will need to get your own license if you are applying these products.

My employees and I both hold private applicators licenses. They will be doing all my spraying. I am taking the dicamba training, but do they also have to take the dicamba training? Yes, anyone who applies one the RUP dicamba products must complete an approved dicamba training and hold either a private or commercial applicator license.

Do other states accept Kansas's state-approved RUP dicamba training? Oklahoma and Colorado will accept Kansas's state approved training. Nebraska and Missouri are accepting other states' training, but applicators need to note they apply in MO and NE so the training can be turned into that state (NDA and MDA are keeping a database of all applicators who have received the training).

This information is made available by the K-State Pesticide Safety and IPM Program. Contact one of the offices in the Twin Creeks Extension District for more information. Norton- 785-877-5755. Decatur- 785-475-8121. Sheridan- 785-675-3268. Graham- 785-421-3411.