

The current COVID-19 pandemic has forced all of us to changed our lives, the ways we socialize, the ways we work and the ways we communicate with others. For the most part, these have been unwanted and difficult changes for many of us to accept but we can adapt and have adapted. The silver lining of this situation is the vast increase in virtual education options. With a few clicks of the mouse we can instantly be transported from an office in Atwood to a meeting in Manhattan, from a pasture outside McDonald to a beef cattle seminar in Blacksburg, VA, or from a living room in Herndon to a local foods conference in Sacramento, CA.

For those of us in northwest Kansas, the increase in virtual education options can be even more valuable. These options completely eliminate the time and expense for an individual to travel to central or higher population density locations that have traditionally been the host sites for many of these larger programs and conferences. Virtual programming also makes it easier and less costly to schedule a wide range of presenters to provide subject or locale focused information to our area. This also means that Rawlins county residents can quickly access K-State Research and Extension programming from all over state. We try to share upcoming virtual education opportunities that we feel are of interest to Rawlins county residents on our Facebook page, “K-State Research and Extension Rawlins County” and through a topic specific email list. If you would like to get emails about specific topics from us, please contact the Extension office with your name, email and topics of interest and we will get you added.

In response to the increase in virtual programming throughout the country, I am happy to announce that we are going to be offering a face to face Zoom Basics program to the people of Rawlins County. This program will help people get setup to use Zoom on their computers, tablets and/or phones and learn the basics skills, etiquette and functions of using Zoom in a meeting or webinar. More information about this program and how to sign-up is available on our Facebook page, through our email list or by contacting the Extension office at (785) 626-3192, rawlinscountyextension1@gmail.com , or just stopping by the office.

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