

For Immediate Release:

October 21, 2016

The mission of K-State Research and Extension Family and Consumer Sciences is to link education with life experiences to help people improve their lives, their families and their communities. Family and Consumer Sciences professionals support essential life skills including Community Development, Healthy Lifestyle Choices, Leadership & Volunteer Development, Relationship Development and Resource Management.

Kylie Ludwig
Wildcat District Extension Agent
Altamont office



Married Couples and Credit

Credit can be a confusing topic for married couples and how it affects their credit. This includes why some information appears on one spouse's credit report but not the other's. Each individual has his or her own credit report and score.

For married couples, information in one spouse's credit report often differs from what appears in the other's report. For example, a spouse who is not a joint account holder or an authorized user on the other spouse's account would likely have no record of that account on his or her credit report. On the other hand, jointly held accounts and credit cards with an authorized user likely appear on both spouses credit reports. Given how confusing it can be to keep track of which accounts should appear on each spouse's report, it is helpful for couples to review their individual reports at the same time.

To simplify, married couples should request their credit scores at the same time and then look through their reports together. Comparing them will ensure that the information in each report is completely accurate. Even though married couples have separate reports information that appears in one report still affects the couple as a whole. Especially when applying for joint credit. Even if you are not applying for credit it is still important to check your credit report.

Because the information in each spouse's credit records may differ, their credit scores are likely also different. Nonetheless, K-State Research and Extension encourages

individuals and couples to focus more on reviewing their reports than their scores, since the underlying information in their reports is what companies use to calculate their scores. Unlike credit reports, credit scores are not available for free at AnnualCreditReport.com.

Anyone can sign up to receive an email reminder from K-State Research and Extension, Wildcat Extension District three times a year by contacting the Altamont office at 620-784-5337. While you can order all three reports at the same time, it is recommended that you view one report every four months so you can be sure that the information is up-to-date and accurate year round.

For additional information, contact the Wildcat Extension District, Girard, 620-724-8233, Altamont, 620-784-5337, Independence, 620-331-2690, Pittsburg Office, Expanded Food and Nutrition Education (EFNEP), 620-232-1930.

Source: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/creditreport/2016/05/11/couples/>

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.