



# Extension Connection

## **For Immediate Release:**

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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.

Wildcat District Extension Agent  
Labette County office

## **Shop Online Safely**

As you scroll online another ad pops up, peaks your interest and before you know it you are buying online, again! Once a shopper sees how easily it is to purchase online they tend to be hooked! It is convenient, quick and you don't have to fight the crowds! With the holidays quickly approaching shopping online will be the go to for many individuals.

Online shopping does bring on security concerns with your personal information. Three important factors when shopping online are security, privacy of personal information and assurance of delivery. A few easy ways to make sure your information is secure is to make sure the lock symbol shows up on the website address bar along with https which indicates the sight is secure. Finally, be sure you receive confirmation that your transaction is complete and you know how to contact the seller if your package does not arrive.

As we scroll past many ads and our inbox fills up with advertisements use the following tips to keep your personal information safe this holiday season.

- Start with a trusted website
- Research for a phone number and mailing address
- Shopping from your phone? Credit cards tend to provide more protection for fraudulent charges
- Screen shot your purchase to save the payment confirmation
- Paypal is another great option to pay – they use leading technology to transmit your banking information
- On public Wi-Fi? Information is not as secure and can easily be hacked

As you gear up to purchase holiday gifts be sure to think as you connect and make online purchases. Be sure to monitor your account as well to make sure the correct charge was applied and no additional charges were made. Keeping track of your spending too will keep you on top of your finances if anything does post to your account that shouldn't have. Enjoy technology this season with the comfort of your finances staying secure.

For additional information, contact the Wildcat Extension District, Crawford County, 620-724-8233, Labette County, 620-784-5337, Montgomery County, 620-331-2690, Wilson County, 620-378-2167, Pittsburg Office, Expanded Food and Nutrition Education (EFNEP), 620-232-1930.

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