

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information,
contact: Julie Smith

Family Resource Management and Entrepreneurship Agent, Wildcat Extension District
juliesmith@ksu.edu (620) 238-0704

Let's Talk About Radon

Do you know that one in four homes in Kansas tests high for Radon? Many of us have never heard about the risks of radon gas in our homes. Research shows that the risk of developing lung cancer increases as the concentration and length of exposure to radon increase. Many home inspectors are now testing for radon levels when you buy or sell a home.

What should you know and what can you do? First, Radon is an invisible, odorless gas. It is capable of seeping through pores in the soil into the atmosphere or the interior of a building. Radon gas entering the air quickly becomes diluted, however, it becomes concentrated and dangerous when it enters a structure such as a home. The gas seeps through sump pumps, cracks, joints and pipes that penetrate the walls and floors of a home.

The only way to know the amount of radon in your home is to test. Radon test kits are available for purchase at your local extension office for \$6.00 each. In the Wildcat District, you can visit our offices in Altamont, Fredonia, Girard, and Independence.

The EPA lists a radon action level of 4.0 picocuries per liter or higher. While this may be new information for many, it is very important for your family to make sure you are protected. Residential radon exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer death in the United States, second only to smoking. Researchers also believe that children may run an even greater risk from radon than adults. The EPA reports that radon is responsible for over 20,000 lung cancer deaths per year. Around 2,900 of these deaths occur among people who have never smoked.

If your home tests at an elevated level, there are mitigation techniques available. For more information on radon, testing and mitigation, visit kansasradonprogram.org/home or call 1-800-693-5343.

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