

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Check Your Credit – Free Reports Weekly

Did you know that checking your credit history can help you better understand your credit position? By consistently monitoring your credit, you may be able to detect any inaccurate or incomplete information that will affect your ability to shop using credit.

Through April 2021, all three credit bureaus (Equifax, TransUnion and Experian) are offering free credit reports once per week via www.annualcreditreport.com. Your credit report is simply a compilation of the facts that the credit bureaus collect about you and does not include your actual credit score.

Your credit report includes account history, hard inquiries to your credit, and potentially negative information.

- 1) Account History - your payment history and status of all real estate, installment and revolving credit accounts, including credit cards.
- 2) Hard inquiries - credit checks by a lender or landlord.
- 3) Potential negative information – loan defaults, late payments, delinquencies, charge-offs, collections and public records.

If you have never checked all three of the reporting credit agencies and studied your personal reports, this is an ideal time. After running my personal report, I was reminded of several accounts that I no longer use but were still listed as open.

K-State Research and Extension offers a free program to remind you when it is time to check your credit report. Although this is currently being offered free weekly, each reporting agency typically offers one free credit report per year. By signing up for the KSRE program “Check Your Credit,” you will be reminded when it is time to check your report three times per year. Sign up by visiting <http://www.bit.ly/ksrecheckyourcredit>.

For more information, contact Julie Smith at juliesmith@ksu.edu or by calling 620-238-0704

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