

Drug Take Back Day Saturday

(KTNC)--You can have expired, unwanted, or unneeded prescription drugs disposed of Saturday, during the federal Drug Enforcement Administration's final Take Back Day.

The event is intended to give people a chance to safely dispose of old medication. Officials say unused medication in homes creates a public health and safety concern, as those drugs can be accidentally ingested, stolen, misused, and abused.

Unused medication will be collected at more than 5,200 locations across the country. Locations include: the Brown County Sheriff's Department in Hiawatha; the Shopko Pharmacy in Auburn; City Hall in Nebraska City; the Syracuse City Hall; the Wal-Mart parking lot in Maryville; Wal-Mart in Atchison, Kansas; and the East Hills Mall parking lot, near Sears, in St. Joseph.

Find a full list of collection sites at www.dea.gov.

The DEA began hosting the drug take-back events four years ago, and has collected more than 4.1 million pounds of prescription drugs since then. The agency doesn't plan to sponsor any more take-back events. New rules implemented under the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010 allow certain DEA registrants – including manufacturers, distributors, narcotic treatment programs, retail pharmacies, and hospitals and clinics with an on-site pharmacy to become authorized collectors.

Law enforcement agencies also can also collect controlled substances and hold take-back events. The Richardson County Sheriff's Department has a box on the first floor of the Courthouse in Falls City where people can drop off unwanted medication.

Many Signals Communications