

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Grand Challenges

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Grand Challenge: Developing Tomorrow's Leaders

Title: Horticulture Judging Contest Practices

Why is this issue important?

One of the great things about 4-H is the exposure you gain in different areas of interest. The purpose of this program is to expose 4-Her's to horticulture. The skills and information learned in this program is valuable throughout participants life, including plant and produce selection and using research-based information for best management of landscape and garden plants.

How did Extension address this issue?

Three horticulture judging practices were held prior to the county fair, with each focusing on different parts of the contest. One practice was a plant walk at the Ted Ensley Gardens so that attendees could learn to identify plants by more than a specific plant part like a leaf, but using the whole plant. With the help of the Shawnee County Extension Foundation, a binder of study materials was developed for each 4-Her that would be a part of the State Judging Contest. These were also given to those members that attended the judging contest practices prior to the county contest. Parent's of attendees said that their kids found them easy to use and were a fantastic resource for this information.

What was the impact?

At each of the pre-county fair practices, three 4-Her's attended, reaching four unique members. At the county fair, 15 4-H members took part in the Horticulture Judging Contest. Of the six intermediates that took part in the contest, the top three judges attended the judging practices.

At the State Horticulture Judging Contest, held at KSU, one intermediate and one senior participant placed in the top 10 individually. The intermediate and senior teams placed 6th overall and 5th overall, respectively.

After the contest, Community Leaders from one community club reached out to have judging practices through the winter, so their members could be better prepared come next year's contest!

