Grand Challenge: Developing Tomorrow’s Leaders
Title: 4-H Common Measures

Why is this issue important?
4-H is a research based youth development program. We rely on youth responses to surveys to see if the program is accomplishing its goal of developing the next generation of leaders. In Shawnee County our goal is to survey our membership every two years.

How did Extension address this issue?
Creating a scientific instrument to survey youth is a big task. The questions must be worded correctly to accurately measure the program. Creating a survey also includes a lengthy review process.

National 4-H has created several surveys for local programs to use that have already been labeled scientific. This is also useful to gather data from across the country about 4-H. Shawnee County utilized local 4-H Events Council members to give the surveys at club meetings. They were trained in the correct way to explain the survey, collect consents and results. We had a 39% return rate of surveys.

What was the impact?
86% of surveyed youth reported they are comfortable working in a group.
88% of surveyed youth reported that they treat others the way they want to be treated.
76% of surveyed youth reported setting goals for themselves.
69% of surveyed youth reported it was not hard to speak up in a group.
61% of surveyed youth reported it is not hard for them to be a leader.

A wrap up question on the survey is “What has been the most important thing you have learned in 4-H?” Here were some of the answers:
How to Step up and Lead
People are unique and you shouldn’t judge them
Measure twice and cut once
That it’s fun working together
To be yourself