

Program Summaries, Impact & Public Value



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Program	Grand Challenge	Impact	Public Value
<p>Shawnee StartUps Leadership provided by Shawnee County Extension's Community Development PDC in 2016 lead to a partnership with NetWork Kansas and the creation of <i>Shawnee StartUps</i>, an e-Community (entrepreneurial). A leadership team comprised of community partners guides the work of the e-Community, whose mission is to "<i>encourage and support entrepreneurs.</i>"</p> <p>Tax credits are sold annually to fund a regional loan pool and to provide marketing funds for the leadership team to educate lenders, entrepreneurs and the community.</p> <p>Ahead for 2018: *More loans!</p>	<p>Community Vitality</p>	<p>Shawnee County e-Community Impact:</p> <p>In our first year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Shawnee StartUps made three loans. *All three loans involved minority business owners. *NetWork Kansas selected Shawnee County for an opportunity assessment, conducted by the Rural Center for Entrepreneurship. This study, valued at \$4,000, has been shared with the Leadership Team and the Entrepreneurship Task Force to provide guidance for strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem and addressing issues in Momentum 2022. <p><i>Continued...</i></p>	<p>When we strengthen small business and the entrepreneurship spirit, local jobs are created. Employees work closer to home which supports other local business. When people shop in their local communities, their tax dollars stay within the local economy.</p>

*Shawnee StartUps will be sending a team of six businesses to Destination Bootcamp, a 3-day intensive training by Jon Schallert. The workshop is part of a Community Reinvention program designed to drive more sales and customer traffic to businesses while at the same time, turning their city into a destination for consumers. We are told this powerful experience can change businesses and the consumer marketplace. We'll be anxious to share their stories next year.

*As part of the Community Reinvention Program, Jon Schallert will provide a FREE 90-minute program for the community. We expect this to be late in the year or early in 2019.

Entrepreneurship

*All extension agents were a part of planning and hosting the ***From Llamas to Lodging*** workshop.

Entrepreneurship Program Efforts in 2018:

*4-H Projects to Profits

This new initiative will focus on elements of entrepreneurship and how 4-Hers can make money doing something they love to do. The multi-phase effort will culminate with a competition at the county fair with cash awards made possible by a grant.

Community Vitality

SHAWNEE COUNTY ENTREPRENEURS:

SUPPORT FUNDING JUST GOT EASIER!

Shawnee STARTUPS
ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT ENTREPRENEURS

WHAT DO WE DO?
WE OFFER LOW-INTEREST LOANS. Qualified applicants can receive \$5,000 to \$45,000 to pair with a loan from another resource like a financial institution. Shawnee StartUps will fund up to 60% of the total loan amount.

HOW DOES FUNDING WORK?
FUNDS ARE VERSATILE. You can apply funds toward the purchase of business equipment, business inventory, working capital, real estate or real estate improvements.

WHO QUALIFIES?
ENTREPRENEURS IN CERTAIN GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS. Entrepreneurs starting, purchasing or expanding for-profit businesses in certain areas of Shawnee County are the focus of our loans.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR AN APPLICATION
www.shawneestartups.com



A Network Kansas E-Community, committed to cultivating an entrepreneurial environment.

From Llamas to Lodging: The Possibilities of an Ag-Based Business Impact:

*37 participants attending the *From Llamas to Lodging* workshop learned about resources to start or grow an agriculture-based business.

As a result of the workshop:

22 agreed or strongly agreed they improved their knowledge of next steps to starting an ag-related business;
23 agreed or strongly agreed they learned new resources to help them start an ag-related business;
20 agreed or strongly agreed they were more likely to start or grow a new ag business;
24 agreed or strongly agreed they increased their support network of community resources or mentors.

<p>PRIDE Two Shawnee County communities are registered with the PRIDE program. KSRE partners with the Kansas Department of Commerce, private sector companies and associations to assist with the community development planning process.</p>	<p>Community Vitality</p>	<p><u>Dover PRIDE</u> completed the final phase of their community playground installation in 2017. They also hosted fun events for the community at the Dover Fall Festival and sponsored Donuts with Santa in December. Dover continues Community of Excellence status and PRIDE volunteers logged 551 hours.</p>  <p><u>Rossville PRIDE</u> received \$4,404 in grants and donations this year to further their efforts to beautify the community and enhance the quality of life for residents. They sold personalized bricks to build a walkway in front of the Gazebo at Andrick Park. Rossville continues Community of Excellence status through 2018, which qualifies them for additional grants. Rossville PRIDE volunteers logged 400 hours this year.</p> 	<p>Rural, suburban and urban communities throughout Kansas face many challenges. When citizens combine their experiences and skills, everyone in the community benefits. Extension programs such as PRIDE and Board Leadership strengthen the skills of volunteers to prepare them for leadership roles in their community.</p>
<p>Free Tax Assistance This effort helps stimulate the local economy, through the return of federal and state tax refund dollars and tax credits. It helps to reduce the demand for public assistance by assisting taxpayers to first access the money they are legally entitled to through tax refunds; and stabilizes the county tax base.</p>	<p>Community Vitality</p>	<p>*Volunteers for ABC in Shawnee County filed 7,000 federal returns for Tax Year 2016 and a similar number of state returns. The assistance helped taxpayers receive over \$7.4 million in federal refunds and place on record nearly \$1 million in tax liabilities. *The free tax assistance saved taxpayers over \$1.5 in tax preparation fees, according to the IRS. *IRS databases indicate that ABC has a 13-14% coverage rate, which is a percentage of the VITA/TCE program-eligible returns for Shawnee County. The nationwide average is 3-5% in counties where there are sustainable programs. *84 volunteers were recognized for service to VITA and AARP. *VITA volunteers contributed a total of 8,653 hours through the Free Tax Assistance effort. *\$5,000 from the United Way of Greater Topeka supports this effort. Many sites provide in-kind donations of space and supplies.</p>	<p>This effort helps stimulate the local economy, through the return of federal and state tax refund dollars and tax credits. It helps to reduce the demand for public assistance by assisting taxpayers to first access the money they are legally entitled to through tax refunds; and stabilizes the county tax base.</p>

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Program	Grand Challenge	Impact	Public Value
<p>Emergency Operations</p> <p>Program efforts for 2018:</p> <p>*Community Preparation for Disaster (Cindy Evans, Leroy Russell and Susan Fangman all served on Emergency Support Function #11 for Shawnee County.)</p> <p>*Shelter In Place (Cindy Evans)</p> <p>*Get Financially Prepared Ahead of Disaster (Susan Fangman)</p> <p>While 90% of homeowners are concerned with protecting their home, only 41% have documented their contents. Nearly 80% of insurance professionals believe claims are processed 50 – 100% faster when customers have completed a home inventory in advance. (Allstate Insurance Survey)</p>	<p>Emergency Preparedness is assigned to our office as a County Department. Three agents serve on Emergency Support Function #11.</p>	<p>Emergency Support Function #11: Leroy, Cindy and Susan participate in practice exercises and Emergency Support Function meetings in preparation of a local emergency. Leroy convened a meeting of citizens and agencies to problem-solve how Shawnee County would respond to an emergency involving dead animals and their disposal. This meeting paved the way for an easier county exercise that helped Emergency Management identify the “next steps” necessary for true preparedness in this area.</p> <p>Shelter in Place: This information is used to educate the public about preparing for weather emergencies and staying off the roads during bad weather, when traffic stuck in snow drifts can impede the clearing of streets and emergency routes.</p> <p>Prepare Kansas: Participants in the <i>Get Financially Prepared Ahead of Disaster</i> program began documentation of important records and started a home inventory.</p>	<p>Education in traditional preparedness measures (<i>prepare a supply kit, food, water and medications on hand, flashlight, a change of clothes, etc.</i>) is important to new audiences who may not be familiar with the disasters that frequent Kansas.</p> <p>Imagine a community hit by disaster that isn't insured, compared to a community that is. Education motivates residents to financially prepare for disaster by reviewing insurance coverage, creating a home inventory and assembling a financial grab and go kit. Financial preparedness is an indicator in the likelihood of a community to recover.</p>

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<p>Indoor Air Quality Mold, Carbon Monoxide, Radon (<i>Radon awareness helps homeowners test their homes for this cancer-causing gas and learn how to make repairs.</i>)</p> <p>Related Services *Radon test kits can be purchased in the office for \$6.00.</p>	<p>Health</p>	<p>From October 2016 – September 2017, 212 radon test kits were sold to residents conducting a first test. 31 kits were provided free to follow up on an initial high result or after a radon mitigation. Referrals are provided to local contractors who have been certified in radon measurement and mitigation. Homeowners wishing to mitigate radon within the home themselves are provided check-out materials.</p>	<p>Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after tobacco smoke. When Shawnee County residents test for radon, they can identify a health hazard in their home or workplace and make repairs to lower the risk for developing lung cancer.</p>

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Nutrition, Health & Wellness <i>Walk Kansas-</i> an 8-week walking program designed to develop the habits of exercising at least 150 minutes a week and to increase fruit and vegetable intake 2018 Public program topics: Adulting- Lifeskills education for teens and young adults Food Preservation Keys to Embracing Aging (for all ages)	Health	<i>Walk Kansas 2017</i> 44 teams registered with 257 team members. Of those reporting the following success were noted at the end of the program: 83% said they ate more fruits and vegetables as a result of the program 85% reported they adopted healthier lifestyle habits 84% are more aware of healthy eating recommendations *30 increased energy * 19 decreased weight * 34 increased endurance *19 better able to manage stress * 37 improved mood * 27 more restful sleep * 6 decreased blood pressure	<i>Walk Kansas</i> Persons who adopt healthy lifestyle habits reduce the risk of developing chronic diseases which can affect the individual's quality of life and financial well-being. These issues often affect the resources of extended family and the greater community.

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Financial Security Senior Health Insurance Counseling	Community Vitality Health	Comparing Prescription Drug Plans: 205 individuals were counseled during the 2017 Medicare Part D open enrollment period effective January 2018 96 beneficiaries changed plans saving \$92,494. 29 individuals saved over \$1000 each by comparing and changing their prescription drug plan for the following year. Gave a presentation to 50 members of the League of Women Voters on "Medicare Part D: The Importance of Reviewing Your Plan Every Year". Participants also learned what to compare when analyzing plans as well as now know where to go for help.	Senior Health Insurance Education When seniors make informed decisions for health care, they are more likely to get adequate and affordable care, reducing the likelihood they will need to rely on public resources, such as Medicaid, for assistance.
VITA- Free Tax Assistance for low to moderate income residents 2017 Public program topics: Medicare Basics/New to Medicare How to Recognize Fraud Financial Emergency Preparedness	Community Vitality	Susan and Cindy Co-coordinate 12 free public tax assistance sites in Shawnee County. The Asset Building Coalition which they lead represents VITA and AARP tax volunteers, as well as educational, government and social service agencies. Volunteers filed 6,436 federal tax returns for Tax Year 2016; plus 22 paper returns, 79 prior year; and 463 completed with facilitated self-assistance for a total of 7,000. A similar number of state returns were filed as well. *Free tax sites helped taxpayers receive \$7,486,258 in federal refunds and place on record \$938,196 in tax liabilities. *The free tax assistance saved taxpayers approximately \$1,540,000 in tax preparation fees. This is figured at an average of \$220 per return, the amount the IRS uses to estimate the value.	Free Tax Assistance helps citizens access the money that they are entitled to. This puts more money in to the local economy.

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Family and Community Education The Mission of FCE is strengthening individuals, families and communities through continuing education, developing leadership and community action	Developing Tomorrow's Leaders	FCE members volunteered 2819 hours in teaching educational lessons and volunteering in our community. Members did a diaper, first aid, clothes, and shoe drive to help the Children's Palace in Topeka. Many members volunteer weekly at a local food pantry. Shawnee County FCE also sponsored a speaker from Kansas Legal Services to inform the public about advanced directives.	Volunteers develop skills of management and leadership as they work. These skills are transferrable to other organizations and can benefit the community as they gain confidence to take on new challenges.

Program Summaries, Impact & Public Value



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Program	Grand Challenge	Impact	Public Value
<p>EXPANDED FOOD AND NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM</p> <p>Poor diets and limited physical activity are major health concerns especially for Kansans with limited resources. EFNEP improves the health and well-being of limited resource families and youth.</p> <p>EFNEP offers practical lessons in basic nutrition, food preparation, food budgeting, food safety and physical activity in settings convenient for the participants.</p> <p>Adult EFNEP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy You & Baby Too (prenatal education) • Eating Smart Moving More Classes • Work for Success (Nutrition education class for people who are in arrears in their child support) • Mirror, Inc. and Parolees– (Groups for persons re-entering the workforce after prison) 	<p>Health</p>	<p>For 2016-2017, 278 families enrolled in EFNEP, reaching 990 family members. Pregnant clients total 108, and 185 families have graduated:</p> <p>EFNEP GRADUATES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 93.5% improved their diet ▶ 48.6% improved in physical activity ▶ Fruit and vegetable intake increased by 0.8 cups, consuming an average of 4.5 cups/day ▶ 45% more often prepared foods using less salt ▶ 61% more often used the "Nutrition Facts" on food labels to make food choices ▶ 28% reported their children ate breakfast more often ▶ 31% were eating meals as a family more often ▶ 54% planned meals more often ▶ 46% improved on comparing prices ▶ 44% ran out of food before the end of the month less often ▶ 47% more often used a list for grocery shopping ▶ 48% were buying more products lower in salt ▶ 44% were drinking less soda ▶ 51% were thawing foods in the refrigerator as recommended more often 	<p>EFNEP participants learn about healthy eating and physical activity habits and make healthier lifestyle choices, which lead to fewer weight-related chronic and acute diseases and improved quality of life, benefiting other community members by lowering the public cost of health care and health insurance.</p>

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<p>EFNEP Nutrition Education for Youth: Twenty-four youth groups completed EFNEP nutrition education lessons (series of six classes) reaching 503 children.</p> <p>Programs: Healthy Kids: School Enrichment and Out-of-School programs for youth grades K-6</p>	Health	<p>K to 2nd Grade Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 32% (65 of 206) improved in their responses to: Circle healthy snacks. 39% (91 of 235) improved in their responses to: Circle kids who should wash their hands before eating. <p>3rd to 5th Grade Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 34% (71 of 210) improved in their responses to: Eat Vegetables? 24% (51 of 210) improved in their responses to: Eat Fruits? 38% (79 of 208) improved in their responses to: Healthy snacks? 19% (37 of 196) improved in their responses to: Eat breakfast? 16% (25 of 157) improved in their responses to: Ask someone to buy fruits/veg? 23% (36 of 157) improved in their responses to: Ask someone to buy low-fat milk? <p>Outreach, Teaching and Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We provided Community Garden Leadership Training to the Shawnee County Health Department to begin planning a Women, Infants and Children (WIC) community garden. We also met with Valeo Behavioral Health Care who has some vacant lots that will become community gardens for residential and outpatients. 	<p>EFNEP participants learn healthy eating and physical activity habits to make healthier lifestyle choices, which lead to fewer weight-related chronic and acute diseases and improved quality of life, benefiting other community members by lowering the public cost of health care and health insurance.</p> <p>Community Gardens improve quality of life by</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> providing opportunities for neighborhood and community development encouraging social interaction
<p>SHAWNEE COUNTY SNAP-ED GARDEN TO PLATE PROGRAM</p>			

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<p>Policy, Systems and Environmental Change</p> <p>Community gardens offer a variety of social, economic and health benefits to neighborhoods and communities, especially in areas where residents don't have access to affordable, healthful foods.</p>	<p>Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Garden to Plate Program provided a community garden tour for Topeka Common Ground and Master Gardeners in the Community Garden Subcommittee. This group is also working on plans to expand the Kansas Expo vegetable garden into a demonstration community garden. • We provided hands-on garden training at our demonstration vegetable garden. Attendees included several community garden volunteers and one family receiving SNAP benefits. • Social Media and Marketing: Nutrition messages, marketing of events and resources, and how-to information on fruit and vegetable gardening is disseminated throughout the year through the Shawnee County Extension Website and Facebook page and the Topeka Common Ground Facebook page. • Lowe's Home Improvement Store donated approximately \$5000 of seeds that were given out to the community at the Topeka Common Ground Seed Fair. Nearly 200 people picked up seeds and educational materials, including information on SNAP-Ed. • Topeka Common Ground partnered with Master Gardeners and Shawnee County Parks and Rec to grow seedlings that were given to community gardens for their spring planting. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. promoting skill building and self-reliance 4. beautifying neighborhoods 5. producing nutritious food 6. reducing family food budgets 7. conserving resources 8. creating opportunities for recreation, exercise, therapy and education 9. reducing crime



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<p>Growing and Strengthening 4-H Families with youth between ages 5 – 18 are encouraged to join a 4-H Community Club where youth can practice leadership, citizenship, and service through club meetings, projects and activities at the local, county, state and national level. Shawnee County has 12 community clubs led by volunteers.</p> <p>Programs available to 4-H members include Club Days, judging contests, Jr.-Sr. Lock-In, day camps, and project meetings. 4-H Camp is a way for all youth in Shawnee County to have a summer camp experience to develop leadership (for counselors) and social skills and independent living (for campers.)</p> <p>Short term 4-H experiences are also available through School Enrichment programs delivered to educators and Special Interest clubs, a six-week 4-H project study.</p>	<p>Developing Tomorrow's Leaders</p>	<p>In 2017 Shawnee County 4-H Enrollment stayed steady with over 450 members in Community Clubs and Short term project clubs.</p> <p><i>"As a result of my experience in 4-H...":</i></p> <p>70% of Shawnee County 4-H'ers said they Always or Usually set goals for themselves;</p> <p>85% of Shawnee County 4-H'ers said they Strongly Agree or Agree that they don't let friends talk them into things that they don't want to do</p> <p>67% of Shawnee County 4-H'ers said they are Always or Usually confident to speak in front of a group</p> <p>92% of Shawnee County 4-H'ers said they Strongly Agree or Agree that they have learned things that help them make a difference in their community</p> <p>92% of Shawnee County 4-H'ers said they Strongly Agree or Agree that they have a plan for reaching their goals.</p>	<p>4-H helps the entire community by instilling the qualities of leadership, citizenship, service and caring in each of our members. Research has shown the youth who participate in 4-H are 4 times more likely to give back to their communities than their non 4-H peers.</p> <p>Shawnee County 4-H is developing tomorrow's Shawnee County leaders and the neighbors you want to live by.</p>

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<p>Volunteer Development</p> <p>Volunteers are recruited from the community to assist with program delivery and increase the number of programs available. The volunteers include community club leaders, project leaders, Special Interest (SPIN) Club leaders and unique areas that enrich the 4-H experience.</p> <p>Relationships with caring adults are essential for youth to achieve their potential because of the guidance, respect, skills, knowledge and wisdom adults can share.</p>	<p>Developing Tomorrow's Leaders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 4-H volunteers contributed over 3,000 hours of service in 2017 serving as club leaders, leading project meetings, planning and conducting workshops and more. ◆ According to Shawnee County Volunteer surveys 78% of registered volunteers said the work they do for 4-H was very meaningful to them. 69% of surveyed volunteers said getting information from the office was very easy and 31% said it was moderately easy. 89% of surveyed volunteers said they are very likely to continue volunteering with Shawnee County 4-H. 	<p>Volunteers who have ownership with the program they volunteer for leads to a more self-sustaining organization benefiting the community by the organization's ability to reach more individuals.</p>



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<p>Extension Master Gardeners – Increase and enhance the 160 Shawnee County Extension Master Gardener's volunteer experience. This includes recruiting and training new Extension Master Gardeners, providing needed training for existing Extension Master Gardeners and assisting in overall program management.</p> <hr/> <p>Kansas Healthy Yards and Communities: Encourages residents to use best horticultural practices. Topics include soil fertility, proper water use, appropriate plant selection, integrated pest management and pollinator friendly gardens.</p> <p>Related Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil testing for lawns and gardens • Extension Master Gardener Response Line for horticulture questions 	<p>Global Food Systems</p> <p>Water</p> <p>Health</p> <p>Community Vitality</p> <p>Developing Tomorrow's Leaders</p>	<p>Horticulture is one program area capable of working towards all of K-State Research and Extension's 5 Grand Challenges. Horticulture teaches community members to grow food for themselves and those around them, impacting our global food system. We tackle water every day by teaching proper landscaping techniques, best horticultural practices for watering and choosing plants suitable for our climate. Health plays a vital role in horticulture through the physical act of gardening, the benefits of eating fresh produce and the significant, positive, emotional impact that plants have on people. Communities are vitalized through vibrant gardens, beautiful landscapes, community gardens that bring people together with a common goal and by creating a plant-rich community that we all want to live in. Horticulture develops leaders by realizing that the goals we strive for; every home with a garden that is beautiful and full of food, strong communities bonded by pride in their surroundings and with streets and businesses that welcome people with beautiful flowers and mature, healthy trees, is only achievable if our youngest residents care enough to carry on the mission.</p> <p>In each of these examples, horticulture programming strives to meet each of K-State Research and Extension's 5 Grand Challenges. Horticulture programming is improving lives and improving the quality of life for Shawnee County Residents every day.</p>	<p>Horticulture has an immeasurable impact on communities. Homes with well-landscaped yards have increased value. Those same homes often have trees that reduce heating and cooling bills throughout the year. Trees near roadways reduce paving costs. Plants in our home and workplace reduce allergens, mold, dust and illnesses. Workplaces with plants have decreased absences, increased productivity and creativity from their workers. Plants are also shown to speed up recovery times in hospitals, create feelings of happiness and they can create a stronger sense of community.</p>

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Programs Offered by MG in 2018: Indoor Plants for Health and Happiness (Jan. 18) Recycling in the Garden (Feb 22) Trees: What and When (Mar 1) Spring Lawn Care (Mar 22) Grandma's Tomatoes (April 5) Curb Appeal (April 19) Growing & Using Herbs (April 26) Raised Bed Gardens (May 3) Rain Barrels (June 7) Presidential Gardens (June 14) Becoming a Shawnee County Extension Master Gardener (July 12) Mulching Mayhem (August 16) Fall Lawn Care (Aug 30) Composting (Sept 6) Mites that Bite (Sept 13) Perennials & Evergreens (Oct 4) Permaculture for the Homeowner (Oct 18) Winter Interest: Landscape for the Holidays (Nov 1)	Global Food Systems Water Health Community Vitality Developing Tomorrow's Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shawnee County Extension Master Gardeners contributed 10,647 volunteer hours in 2017. These hours were spent in planting new trial plants in the Prairie Star Prairie Bloom Demonstration Garden and teaching eighth graders about composting. Many hours were spent creating magic at the Kansas Garden Show and answering lawn and garden questions on the Response Line. The 2017 Plant Sale was the most successful yet, with a line winding down the block before the sale even opened. Volunteers put on classes, hosted booths and utilized demonstration, private and public gardens as teaching laboratories. Volunteers on the Response Line helped to answer 639 calls from community members. These calls included 144 calls about trees, 83 calls on weeds and 91 calls about insects. The volunteer hours contributed by Extension Master Gardeners does not include time they spent receiving additional training which was more than 1,000 hours. In 2017, 353 routine soil tests were run on lawns, flower gardens and vegetable gardens. These soil tests are the most accurate assessment of fertilizer needs. Lawn and garden soil test have increased 27% since 2016. The Shawnee County Extension Office gave out 87 vouchers for free compost bins to Shawnee County residents. 	Extension Master Gardeners are considered experts in the field of horticulture by their community members. Our members undergo hundreds of hours of training each year and are taught that what you don't know—you find out. This focus on providing research based, un-biased information to the public is what makes our programming stand out above the rest.



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<p>Farm Management: Crop and Livestock Profitability Programs:</p> <p>Annual education series offered in 2018 topics include:</p> <p>2018 Fall Field Day Crop Tour Kansas River Valley Experiment Field Crop Update Eastern Kansas Grazing School Weed Suppression Resistant Weeds and Increasing Beneficial Cover: Pond Maintenance Aquatic Problems—Fish, Plant growth: Soil Health Test Plot Tour; Leasing, Fence Laws, Easements, LLCs and Estates Topeka Farm Show Soybean School</p> <p>Topics for individual guidance:</p> <p>Farm Succession</p> <p>Farm Evaluation</p> <p>Related Services:</p> <p>*Soil testing for crop and hay land *Identification of Kansas insects, plants & weeds</p>	<p>Global Food Systems</p> <p>Water</p> <p>Community Vitality</p> <p>Health</p> <p>Developing Tomorrow's Leaders</p>	<p>*In 2017, routine soil tests were run on 542 fields of crops or brome grass helping farmers determine how much fertilizer to apply. This is a 376 % increase from 2016 in number of soil samples completed. Appropriate fertilizer choices reduce the farmer's expenses and controls run off, keeping our water supply clean.</p> <p>*Approximately 120 farmers and ranchers attended the 2017 spring <i>Coffee, Cookies, and Conversation</i> series meetings. 100% of the applicants gained knowledge, with 53% ranking the programs as excellent and 47% either very good or good. The group (collectively) represented farm businesses with 24,743 acres of crops and hay, 21,998 acres of pasture, and 4,080 head of cattle. All participants reported learning recommendations that will be reflected in changes to their operations.</p> <p>*Approximately 542 local Farmers and Ranchers attended one of the workshops and educational meetings sponsored by Shawnee County Extension 2017. Over 90% of all attending rated the day as excellent or very good. Many plan to make changes in their operations from the information they received.</p>	<p>Extension Programs help farmers and ranchers be more profitable and to be good stewards of the natural resources. When farmers are profitable, they spend money on their equipment, expanding their operation, and bringing more employees into their operation. Profitability affects the property tax on land (averaged over 8 years), so higher profits yield more tax dollars to the county. Educational programs help to keep farmers from losing their top soil, keep chemicals out of the atmosphere, and to help keep a safe food and water supply.</p>

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Youth Programing in Agriculture Tractor Safety Training Tractor Safety Certification, Youth Pork Quality Assurance, 4-H Youth Support in Agriculture	Global Food Systems Water Community Vitality Health Developing Tomorrow's Leaders	<p><i>*From Farm To You</i> has educated over 26,000 youth in the past 27 years about where their food comes from. The youth learn how animals and crops are raised and cared for and the healthy food products produced. Food production is tied to domestic and global issues of food security, water quality and scarcity, and is a significant economic driver in Kansas.</p> <p>*21 youth completed a two-day tractor and farm safety course and passed a competency test on working with farm equipment and farm animal safety.</p> <p>*39 youth participated in Pork Quality Assurance training and passed a test on pork production and producing a safe food product for the public.</p>	<p>*Today's youth are tomorrow's decision makers on these critical issues which affect food safety and an affordable food supply.</p> <p>*Agriculture is ranked as one of the three most hazardous occupations in the U.S. Education is key to keeping farmers and ranchers safe.</p>
Kansas Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Recovery	Community Vitality Health	<p>**Shawnee County farm and ranch owners are better prepared for an emergency that may affect agricultural areas of livestock, crops, farm buildings, farm machinery, and farm homes. Each of the participants in the programs held during the year have an understanding of their role in emergencies and the resources needed to protect the agriculture sectors of their Farm or Ranch facility.</p>	<p>*Every year, some part of Kansas has disasters...drought, floods, tornadoes, hail, blizzards and more. There is also the potential for accidental or intentional man-made disasters, such as chemical spills or the introduction of disease in humans, livestock or crops.</p>
Farm Transition	Global Food Systems Community Vitality Health Developing Tomorrow's Leaders	<p>*Farm Transition was covered at the Ag Stewardship meeting in Overbrook on February 17 with about 130 in attendance. I also assisted and gave advice to farmers and ranchers that are working on wills, trusts, LLCs and other transition methods for their farms. The program was rated as Excellent or Very Good by 100% of participants, 100% of participants also gained knowledge from the presentations. Fifteen of the participants have started to work on wills, trusts and may be starting up LLCs with plans to have them completed in the next five years.</p>	<p>*Many farms fail in the transition between generations and need help and guidance.</p>