

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE



## Grand Challenges

K-State Research and Extension develops and delivers practical, research-based solutions to challenges faced by all Kansans, which includes the grand challenges:

- Global Food Systems
- Water
- Health
- Community Vitality
- Developing Tomorrow's Leaders

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## Grand Challenge: Global Food Systems, Water, Health, & Community Vitality

**Title:** *Hazardous Occupations Safety Training in Agriculture*

### Why is this issue important?

Agriculture and agribusiness contribute to the total economy of Kansas, both directly and indirectly. One in five Kansans, rural and urban, work in jobs related to agriculture and food production. Agriculture is the number one industry in Kansas, and Extension education helps Shawnee County future farmers and ranchers stay safe on the job and keep producing a safe to consume food product.

Agriculture, food and food processing sectors support 8,981.5 jobs or 7.63% of the workforce and a total economic contribution of approximately \$2.73 billion, roughly 28.41% of the economy in Shawnee County.

The average age of a farmer in Kansas is 58.3 years old. Shawnee County Extension and 4 other counties put on a HOSTA training that 28 local youth attended. All youth working with agriculture that are age 14-16 must be tested and certified to work on any farm that is not their immediate families.

### How did Extension address this issue?

Shawnee County Extension and Riley, Pottawattamie, Geary and Marshall Counties conducted a two-day training at K-Equip to train our youth to be safe working on a farm or ranch. The topics covered were:

- \*Tractor Operation safety
- \*Operation of Skid Steers, Tele handlers, ATVs, Augers and Elevators
- \*Working with livestock safety
- \*Working with Farm Equipment such as balers, mowers, planters, disc, etc.

### What was the impact?

28 youth were tested and certified to work on a farm or ranch this summer. The youth are tested at this training and then have to complete a two-hour driving test with a farmer or rancher they will be working for this summer. 100% ranked the programs as excellent or very good and increased their knowledge of working on a farm. All participants reported learning recommendations that will help keep them safe working on a farm.



Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service  
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