Making a Difference

Grand Challenge: Developing Tomorrow’s Leaders
Title: 4-H Special Interest Clubs

Why is this issue important?
4-H is a research based youth development program. 4-H has shown to positively impact life long pathways of development. 4-H teaches youth how to belong to a group, learn mastery of a subject and how to be a leader.

The 4-H program is a large time commitment for youth and their guardians. The traditional community club program requires attendance at monthly meetings, separate project lessons and county events. 4-H clubs also meet for an entire year and youth can reenroll from ages 5 to 18.

How did Extension address this issue?
Kansas 4-H created Special Interest (SPIN) clubs for youth who can not commit to the community club model of 4-H. SPIN clubs focus on one 4-H project for five to six sessions and are delivered in after school or summer programs. That way 4-H comes to youth instead of youth having to travel to 4-H.

What was the impact?
In 2019 Shawnee County 4-H has hosted 5 SPIN Clubs in after school and summer programs. Because of that effort 138 Shawnee County youth were able to have a 4-H Experience.

Projects studied were as follows:
Quincy After School Program–Photography and Art
McCarter Kidquest Program–Entrepreneurship
Family Service and Guidance Center–Photography
Christ the King Summer Program–Photography
Meadows Kidquest Summer Program–Kitchen Science

Youth learn about density by making a liquid tower in a Kitchen Science lesson.