

# 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:** Agriculture and Agribusiness Remain Essential to the Food Supply During COVID-19

### Why is this issue important?

Agriculture and Agribusiness are the number one industry in Kansas. Shawnee County has 847 farms and a total of 201,662 acres in farm ground. Shawnee County has a total of 9,108 jobs and \$1.83 billion dollars in the agriculture, food and food processing sectors. Agriculture research has one of the highest returns of any public investment. It has been estimated that research generates a benefit-cost ratio of 10:1. The local farmers have had numerous challenges in the last several months with the COVID-19 shutdown of the local and national economy and keeping food products to the American public.

### How did Extension address this issue?

Shawnee County Extension has tried to continue serving and helping our local farmers and ranchers. We have continued to answer farmers and ranchers questions, ID weeds and insects, take soil tests, and certify farmers to apply pesticides. The Topeka Farm Show has been rescheduled for April 13-15, and the 2021 Coffee, Cookies and Conversation has been postponed until summer or fall to continue to have face to face and hands on educational trainings for our local farmers and ranchers.

### What was the impact?

Approximately 450 farmers and ranchers have had their agriculture questions answered by phone, email, or in-office visits. We have taken 236 soil test for farms and given results back to our farmers. We have certified five to apply herbicides. We identify weeds and insects as needed and give control advice to our famers and ranchers. We continue to serve our Shawnee County farmers and ranchers to keep them profitable and our food supply continuing. *Pictured is Ben Marple combining his wheat crop in Shawnee County.*

