

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 five grand challenges of:

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

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Grand Challenge: Developing Tomorrow's Leaders Title: Shawnee County Fair "Pandemic Edition"

Why is this issue important?

The County Fair is the capstone educational event for most 4-H projects. Some youth will qualify and show at the State Fair, but the majority of 4-H'ers will exhibit their year of project work only at the County Fair.

How did Extension address this issue?

The priority of extension programs is the safety of our participants, volunteers and staff.

COVID-19 presented many challenges for a face-to-face event like the county fair. With guidance from the Shawnee County Health Department, Kansas 4-H and the Shawnee County Extension Board, a plan was formed to still provide the education of the fair while minimizing risk. The Non-Animal divisions were judged with no face-to-face contact. The projects were either dropped off to be judged or virtual entries were submitted. The animal divisions had shows that were closed to the public. All participants stayed socially distanced and wore face masks.



What was the impact?

210 enrolled 4-H'ers participated in the modified county fair. 1,514 entries were judged. Because of the hard work and flexibility of our 4-H volunteers, leaders and staff, these youth got constructive feedback on their projects. This will allow them to continue learning and growing in their project in the 2020-2021 4-H year.