

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

Title: Youth Learn How Agriculture Impacts Them Every Day

Why is this issue important?

In 1950, approximately one in every four Kansans lived on a farm. Today, less than 2% of all individuals live on a farm. As Kansans become more removed from their rural heritage, Extension helps to bring awareness to youth and adults about how their food is produced on the farm to become a food product.

How did Extension address this issue?

Since 1991 Extension has led a one-day agricultural experience for Shawnee County second graders. *"From Farm to You"* teaches youth how agriculture touches their lives every day through the food they eat.

The event begins with a video developed by local extension educators that depicts how all the parts of a pizza are grown by Kansas farmers. Students visit eleven learning stations highlighting poultry, weather, beef, dairy, swine, vegetables, tractors, grains, animal health, physical activity and hands-on water conservation to connect the parts of a pizza to Kansas agriculture.

More than 75 volunteers provide expertise representing Shawnee County Farm Bureau, local FFA chapters, Natural Resource Conservation Service, 4-H, Master Gardeners and the Auburn Animal Clinic.



What was the impact?

More than 27,000 youth have participated in *From Farm to You* since 1991 and learned how agriculture touches their life on a daily basis. Teachers evaluations have shown positive impacts with much learned about producing food by the 2nd grade youth: Some of the knowledge gained includes:

- *Food comes from plants, seeds, and animals on the farm.
- *Soil and water are needed to grow plants, and plants and water are needed for people and animal food.
- *Milking cows is hard. Milk has vitamins in it. It takes a lot of work to care for plants and animals.

Teachers repeatedly share that having live animals provides a great experience for the youth, and that every station is valuable with hands-on demonstrations or activities that enhance learning.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service
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