

# 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

Find more stories like this and more at :  
[www.ksu.edu/solutions](http://www.ksu.edu/solutions)

K-State Research & Extension  
Shawnee County  
1740 SW Western Ave.  
Topeka, KS 66604  
(785) 232-0062  
[shawnee.ksu.edu](http://shawnee.ksu.edu)



## Grand Challenge: Water & Developing Tomorrow's Leaders

Title: 2020 Kansas Garden Show Educates and Inspires



### Why is this issue important?

Every year Shawnee County Extension Master Gardeners play a vital role in the Kansas Garden Show. In 2020, their booth centered around education and the vital role Extension has played in our country's past, present and future.

### How did Extension address this issue?

The 2020 SCEMG booth was divided into four themed areas. The first reflected on the history of Victory Gardens in our country and how Extension supported those efforts in WW1 and WW2. The second portion was the 2020 garden that featured a hydroponic and irrigation display complete with a QR code in lieu of a paper handout for additional hydroponic information. The third part of the booth

focused on composting—both traditional and vermicomposting, offering hands on demonstrations as a way to encourage the youngest show attendees to learn more about both topics. The final portion of the booth allowed show goers to plant their own coleus to take home along with care instructions.

### What was the impact?

In the SCEMG booth, our volunteers educated 1,715 people! That is in addition to the 631 youth who planted and learned about coleus and the 298 who attended the 13 educational seminars hosted by K-State Research and Extension—Shawnee Co. One show attendee stopped an Extension Master Gardener to share her thoughts about their efforts. She told our volunteer; *"Your organization is a really valuable service to our county!"* From the educational seminars, 99% of the attendees indicated that they had learned something in the program that they would later apply.



Above: A young show attendee plants his very own coleus plant with our volunteer's guidance.

Left: Attendees visiting the Victory Garden portion of our booth with volunteer Ed Dillingham standing by ready to answer their questions!

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer. K-State Research and Extension is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants.