

# 2021 Johnson County Extension Annual Report

**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

Johnson County

**JOHNSON**  
**COUNTY**  
KANSAS

In partnership together

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# Grand Challenges and Guiding Principles

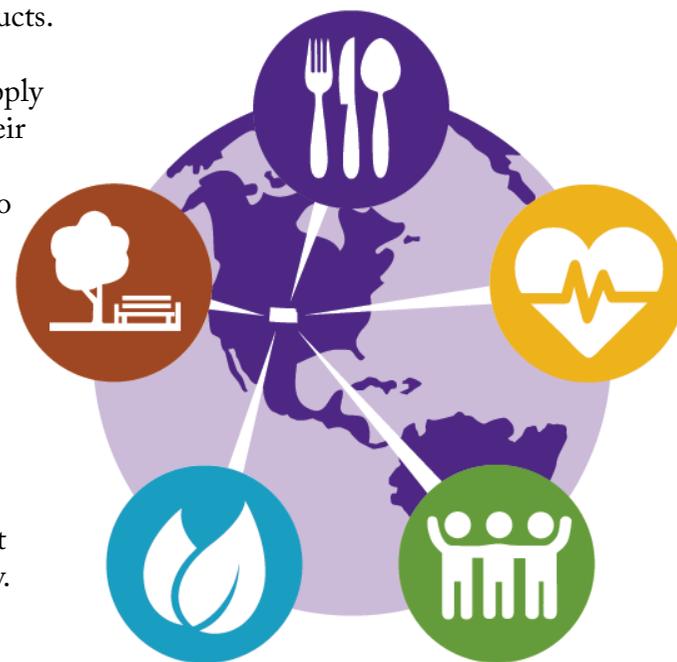
Working with stakeholders across the state, K-State Research and Extension identified five Grand Challenges facing every Kansan. The university's research and extension services are focused on addressing these five challenges: global food systems, health, developing tomorrow's leaders, community vitality and water.

Local Johnson County Extension faculty (called "agents") balance these Grand Challenges with Johnson County Government's Guiding Principles, providing educational outreach that serves the county, municipalities, businesses and citizens.

Johnson County Extension agents take complex, research-based information from universities across the country and government at all levels and localize it. Agents deliver this information without bias; their mission is to provide the most accurate, science-based research, not to sell products.

Agents help citizens understand and apply this information so that it addresses their individualized need. Once presented with the facts, it is left to the resident to ultimately determine the best solution.

Our agents work closely with faculty in Manhattan so that university researchers and specialists are aware of local issues. Agents also work closely with stakeholders in the county to make sure the university continues to develop programming that benefits the citizens of Johnson County.



# Letter from the Director

2021 was an exciting year for our continued educational services to the residents of Johnson County. How do you meet the needs of an urban, suburban and rural county which sits on a state line and is part of a metropolitan area? The dynamics of our work is quite daunting when you put the bigger picture into perspective. However, our small but mighty office made incredible impacts in our local community.

The work we do can only be done through creating strong partnerships and working with effective collaborations. How we facilitate impact in the community is displayed in the pages which follow. In true educational form here are a few questions I challenge you to find the answers to within our highlights of 2021:

- How did Extension promote financial literacy programs?
- What is the goal of the Kitchen Restore program?
- What ways did our 4-H youth address food waste issues within the county?
- Can you name more than three items related to natural resources and agriculture questions our office addresses on a weekly basis?
- What do citizens say about the Extension Master Gardener hotline services?
- How has the Extension office supported the Kansas Specialty Crop Growers Association over the last year?
- Why is facilitation an important skill when leading community conversations?
- What programs did the Johnson County Extension Education Foundation support?

A key factor to our success and capacity to provide quality educational experiences and information is through our vast volunteer network. The volunteers are the backbone of our office, from completing tax forms to providing leadership for cooking classes. In 2021, the dollar value of our volunteers' time was \$1,196,068.20. When we discuss impact, this equates to over twenty-four full time staff members. The value of the volunteer engagement is unparalleled, and we are truly thankful for their passion and dedication to the K-State Research and Extension family.

Addressing critical issues impacting our community and how we are working to on them is at the heart of the work we do and have been doing for the last 104 years. Please enjoy our efforts in helping maintain and support a strong and vibrant Johnson County.



Tara Markley,  
Johnson County Extension Director

# Every Dollar Counts

By Denise Dias

As consumer costs and inflation rise, Johnson County citizens look to Extension for cost-cutting and money-saving educational programs and publications. The beginning of the year focuses on state and federal income tax filing help. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program uses volunteers to help many of our limited income, Hispanic, hearing impaired and older adult population e-file their taxes. Our VITA site used mail-in and drop-off options to keep volunteers and patrons healthy. Last year, volunteers prepared 1,259 tax returns, which resulted in \$1,675,600 in tax refunds and tax preparation savings.

These volunteers often help in other ways too.

One VITA client stopped in our lobby at the pop-up tax information desk to find out how to get her taxes prepared for herself and her young children. It was clear she had recently immigrated to the U.S. from the Middle East and did not fully understand how things worked in America.

In the process of getting her documentation ready for the VITA volunteers, she shared her situation. Her husband had left her and was not giving her any support. She did not have a job and worried if she did not get her taxes done soon, she



**\$1,675,600**  
In Tax Refunds  
and Preparation savings



# Family & Consumer Sciences

## Home & Family

could be evicted. These volunteers helped to connect her with other county services and information. They shared information about job and rental assistance programs, along with several food pantry locations. In a few days, the woman had taxes submitted and she had reached out to several agencies to help her to get on her feet again.

Financial Wellness Workshops were presented to over 300 Johnson County staff, Life Academy participants, Kansas University staff and residents. These workshops focused on basic financial budgeting, savings, money pitfalls, credit repair and document storage organization. Participants reported they learned new ideas for improving their financial situation. Most participants stated they planned to start using these strategies in 30 days or less.

Healthcare can be a large expense for many residents. Educating older adults on health insurance and Medicare helps ensure they save the most on these expenses. Many Medicare beneficiaries spend over \$200 each year

on unnecessary coverage. Helping them understand and review their coverage puts more money in their pockets to use elsewhere.

In the fall of 2021, Extension helped 74 Medicare Beneficiaries save \$135,117.91 on their prescription drug coverage for 2022.

Mr. & Mrs. L. had been on Medicare for almost 25 years and had not reviewed their coverage the entire time. Mr. L's health had declined dramatically. He was now in an assisted living residence to get the extra care he needed. Reviewing their Medicare coverage with one of our SHICK counselors, they discovered they could save over \$12,000 a year by making a couple of changes to their prescription coverage. Their daughter, who was helping them, breathed a sigh of relief. They could now better manage and afford her father's healthcare in the next year.



*Students learning about financial literacy.*

# Restoring Health with Kitchen Restore

By Crystal Futrell

In the late summer of 2021, the Johnson County Extension Master Food Volunteers (EMFVs) started a project called “Kitchen Restore” as part of our Johnson County Extension’s Jo Co E.A.T.S. initiative, a locally developed community resource and website listing healthy recipes that are easy to make and taste-test approved. The E.A.T.S. stands for Easy Affordable Tasty Solutions and its mission is to empower individuals with limited resources to cook easy, delicious, and nutritious meals with accessible ingredients. The Jo Co E.A.T.S. project embodies the familiar concept that it’s better to teach someone to fish rather than just give them a fish to eat. Well, it’s hard to fish if you don’t have a fishing pole, and that’s what the Jo Co E.A.T.S. Kitchen Restore Project is all about.

After learning about the success of the Kitchen Restore project that originated in Riley County during the state Extension Master Food Volunteer conference, our Jo Co EMFVs felt inspired to bring this program to our county since it closely aligned with our Jo Co E.A.T.S. projects. In August, we began soliciting donations of gently used (or new) kitchen tools and dinnerware. Our intent was to slowly promote this project so we could learn how to best manage it; however, the idea of rehoming and gifting kitchen items to limited resource audiences spread like wildfire, and our staff and volunteers were soon inundated with donations



**\$59,520**  
Kits worth given  
to Residents in  
need

*Extension Master Food Volunteer, Deanne Bacco, preparing kits from their kitchen storage space.*



# Family & Consumer Sciences Health & Nutrition

and community members wanting to help. The Johnson County Bar Association hosted a donation drive which collected nearly a thousand pieces. Local churches began gathering items from church members wanting to downsize their homes. Two middle schoolers who manage a lemonade stand during the summer and donate all their profits to a community organization chose our Kitchen Restore project and purchased 69 colanders—an item we often need to supplement—to help complete our kits. The response from the community has been amazing.

The EMFVs manage the project by retrieving, sorting, and building the starter kits which consists of an 18-gallon bin filled with items for measuring, cutting, mixing, cooking and eating. An estimated value for each kit is between \$100 and \$120 and includes a recipe booklet from our Jo Co EMFV class “Meals on a Budget.” The Kansas Beef Council also partnered with us to donate instant read meat thermometers and healthy recipes. The EMFVs meet weekly to work on the kits at our off-site storage facility which happens to be the backroom of an Olathe liquor store—a space donated by one of our EMFVs who owns the business.



We partnered with several local agencies and schools to help us identify individuals who might benefit from receiving one of our Kitchen Restore starter kits. Safe Home, a shelter for women and their children fleeing abusive homes, and KVC Health Systems, an organization that supports young adults who age-out of the foster care system, were our initial partners and collected several kits each for their clients. Family and Consumer Sciences teachers from local schools also reached out to us; they had students who couldn't practice the recipes they learned in school because they didn't have any kitchen equipment at home. In November, we delivered 40 starter kits to Olathe Head Start families and 163 kits in December to families from the Growing Futures Early Education Center, which is the Head Start school for the Shawnee Mission School District. By the end of 2021, our EMFVs prepared and delivered 234 kits within 4 months, and they have requests for hundreds more from local pantries and organizations working with refugees from Afghanistan. It's been an amazing, rewarding project that has stretched our capacity to help community members live healthier lives in Johnson County.

*163 Kitchen Kits delivered to Head Start by Extension Master Food Volunteers.*

# Partnerships Make the World of Extension Better

*By Jessie Furgins*

Great things usually do not occur in a bubble. Our partnerships this year were not entirely new, but they looked different than past partnerships.

For the past 32 years, our 4-H School Enrichment Coordinator, Nancy Carr, has gone into schools across the county with programs like chick and butterfly hatching to give a hands-on experience to students who otherwise may not have access to this type of learning. One teacher Nancy partnered with over the years, Mr. Stidham, learned Extension and 4-H offer more than chick and butterfly hatching and reached out to see what else we might be able to bring to his middle school classroom.

Last fall, we facilitated a day long hands-on learning program to showcase all that Extension and 4-H has to offer, including planting seeds, robotics, fiber arts, livestock and so much more! The students were initially overwhelmed but quickly worked their way through the stations. They gravitated towards some areas more than others and could spend as much or as little time as they wanted at each station. Mr. Stidham wanted the program to flow this way: allowing students freedom and exploration. In 2022, we have multiple dates scheduled to bring more programming to this school and feeder elementary schools.

**4,104**  
students  
participated in the  
school enrichment  
program

*Students at Sante Fe Middle School hands-on learning.*



# 4-H Youth Development



Another program that excelled due to partnerships was the 4-H Watch Your Waste program. This program began through an AgInnovator Grant sponsored by Bayer. Three teens volunteered to lead this program for 2021 and they configured four components of the program that would be the most impactful.

The first component the teens chose to tackle was youth education. They began by creating and distributing posters in their schools and community. Then they hosted several educational events to teach youth and adults about the importance of composting and how it benefits the community. Many participants said afterwards they would encourage their families to make a difference by reducing food waste.

The second component the teens worked on was hosting a booth during the Johnson County Fair. The teens decided to teach families by using a two-method approach. First, they printed activity books on compost and waste targeting children. While the younger audience worked through their book, the teen leaders spoke to the parents about the Watch Your Waste project. Overall, the teens

talked to approximately 42 adults in a 4-hour window.

For the third component of the program, the teens wanted to build a community compost bin. To accomplish this they partnered with Extension Agent Zac Hoppenstedt, and Extension Master Gardener Larry Justice, to gather materials and the knowledge to make the bin structurally sound for years to come. The teens constructed the bin in two days.

After completing the compost bin the teens began the final component of improving the health of Johnson County residents by increasing access to healthy foods. To do this, the teens hosted a booth at the WIC Community Garden Farmers' Market. Those who attended developed a strong understanding of the work that goes into growing food in a garden.

The beauty of 4-H is teaching our younger generation new skills, then giving them an opportunity to teach others what they learned. 4-H helps them build confidence and pride for themselves and their future.



*4-H Watch Your Waste teen building the compost bin with volunteer Larry Justice.*

# *Junior Extension Master Naturalists*

*By Juju Wellemeyer*

While the Extension Master Naturalist (EMN) volunteer group has been around since 2013, the Junior Extension Master Naturalists successfully debuted in 2021. The program fosters independent thinking and curiosity about the environment by immersing 3rd through 5th graders in engaging natural resource topics. To add to the spirit of stewardship, the lessons take place in streams, fields, native plant beds, and forests. In 2021, twenty-three students experienced hands-on outdoor learning opportunities on topics covering winter wonders and animal tracks, reptiles and amphibians, the water cycle and stream quality, and pollinator identification and functions. Classes took nature walks, used magnifying glasses to examine insects, saw

Monarch Butterfly tagging efforts, and explored different habitats on land and in the water. This program also provides the opportunity for certified EMNs to pass along their knowledge and passion for the outdoors. Our program in 2021 was fun for both students and teachers, in the snow and in the rain, and we look forward to continuing in the coming years.

**"The JEMN program is an important way to connect our young community to the wonder of nature and its many lessons. The JEMN program provides a path to beneficial community resources."**

**- Beverly McAuley, EMN**

*Junior Master Naturalist students inspect insects during their nature walk.*





# Natural Resources & Small/Mid Scale Agriculture

## *Your Natural Resource and Agriculture Questions*

In Extension, one never knows what will be waiting on their desk. Termites or ants? Noxious weeds or native grasses? Pantry pests or bed bugs? Every day in our office phone calls, people, and emails roll in; sometimes specimens are left to be identified or sent to a lab. The agriculture and natural resources questions vary from “How do I build a fertilizer profile?” to “Is that snake venomous?” and “What do I do about the bats?” Our office provides a plethora of services to Johnson County residents and the connected Kansas City metro area.

Some people may ask why we do what we do. Why do we identify plants, scat, or pond weeds left on our desks? Residents improve their quality of life and home health by getting assistance on wildlife pests, including animal and insect identification and management strategies. Residents also increase their quality of life as we provide natural resource classes and information so they can connect with their environment. Pond owners improve local food systems and watershed health when we assist with livestock watering systems and solutions, algae and plant identification for treatment and control, and nutrient and dam management assistance. Livestock owners save money, time, and

improve the local food system when we give assistance with forage testing, nutrient and ration information, and general management of resources. Landowners improve soil and environmental health by reducing erosion because we provide resources including the county-owned no-till drill, native grass cost-share programs, and facilitate soil samples and interpret results to help people understand their nutrient needs and save money on fertilizer costs. Farmers improve watershed and environmental health while bolstering the local food system when we facilitate soil tests so they can apply the optimal amount of nutrients to crop fields to get the optimum yield, and often save on expenses by not over-applying fertilizers. We benefit budgets and the environment through weed identification, allowing residents to apply the most effective solution, which reduces excess herbicides.

The main reason our Extension office provides so many services is because it supports our community and creates a healthy place to live for everyone. And that is worth all the cups of ants, piles of grass, bags of soil, jars of algae, trips to a field, and photos of wildlife burrows that come into the office.



*Goldenrod sample brought in to the Extension Office for identification.*



# *Garden Tour Balances Inspiration and Education*

*By Dennis Patton*

The 2021 Public Garden Tour organized by the Extension Master Gardeners (EMGs) exceeded expectations. Due to COVID-19, people were anxious to get outside and enjoy the beauty of nature. Over 2,700 participants viewed five featured gardens. Garden Tours are an optimal learning experience as people learn by seeing and interacting with highly trained EMGs. More than 275 volunteers helped make this event successful.

The tour promotes Extension's best management practices and gives tangible examples of plants and landscaping recommendations. It also helps maintain the high quality of life in Johnson County.

Each garden is owned and maintained by one of our EMGs, which makes our garden tour unique.

By opening up these private gardens you get a rare chance to wander through your neighbor's backyard and see and learn from local experts.

Having a chance to tour these special gardens is a real treat for many residents. People become inspired to plan their own gardens as well as learn about the best plants for their environment. Sharing research-based information specific to our area is one of the benefits of the Garden Tour.

**"I enjoyed the  
tour very much. It's  
always enriching to see  
the various gardens and  
arrangements - certainly  
gives me ideas."  
- Survey Response**

*The Householder Garden during the public garden tour.*



# Horticulture Ornamentals and Turf

## *Why Horticulture Education is Important*

Why does Extension provide education in lawn and garden care? Is it just pretty flowers and green lawns? It might be for some, but it's so much more. The value of the landscape and green space helps provide for a high quality of life, benefiting all residents. This is one of many reasons Johnson County consistently ranks as one of the most livable counties in the country.

The horticulture program's mission is to create healthy communities, environments, plants and people. The Extension Gardening Hotline is one of the most trusted and valued outreach programs, helping to achieve this mission. The gardening hotline responds to various questions, including plant growth, culture, insects, diseases, environmental issues, weed identification, home pests and wildlife issues. On average, the hotline receives 5,000 contacts each year and is one of the most recognized Extension services.

Extension Master Gardener (EMG) volunteers assist with staffing the hotline during the growing season, donating over 2,000 hours annually. EMGs are supported by Extension horticulture staff and the resources of Kansas State University.

A recent survey determined the value of the service to users, including:

- 95% reported the information received helped solve their concerns
- 95% were satisfied with the knowledge level of the EMG volunteers

•97% relayed their questions were handled in a timely manner

Most importantly, hotline users gained knowledge, empowering them to maintain healthy, sustainable plantings. As a result, users reported they saved time, money, and reduced the use of pesticides, proving education on horticulture is important.

Horticulture helps improve the quality of life for our residents outside of the garden hotline.

K-State Research and Extension Horticulture creates healthy communities, environments, plants, and people. We enhance vibrant local economies by supporting and developing local horticulture businesses. We build healthy food systems for families, neighborhoods, and communities by increasing gardening literacy. We bolster livable communities by recommending resilient landscaping practices. We advocate for healthy environments by supporting native pollinator habitats, promoting soil and water health, and managing invasive species. We improve quality of life with dynamic volunteer programs.

As you can see, our educational programs have far reaching impacts beyond just being pretty.

Extension education creates a better environment for Johnson County residents.



# Johnson County Extension Helps Local Growers

*By Zac Hoppenstedt*

The demand for local fresh produce continues to grow in Kansas and there are not enough fruit and vegetable farmers to meet the demand. There is a great need for technical expertise and education among aspiring, new, and existing fruit and vegetable producers. Many small acreage produce growers are first-generation farmers with limited resources. A 2017 Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) survey showed that 80% of farms growing specialty crops are under 6 acres in size, and only 11% exceed 20 acres. Data from the Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) analyzed by Jablonski et. al. (2018) shows that profitability increases with scale, and risk decreases with scale. So, given this information, our specialty crop farms are high risk, low profit, and yet there is an unmet demand for local food.

Johnson County Extension partnered with Extension specialists and outside agencies to provide training for producers on topics relating to production practices, food safety and risk management. This included training and technical assistance to more than 65 new or beginning farmers and more than 450 beginning gardeners.

In Johnson County, K-State Research and Extension (KSRE) collected over 300 pre- and post-program evaluation forms, in which more than 75% of attendees reported a significant increase in knowledge in sustainable farm and garden practices. Surveys conducted at farmer workshops and field days indicate that on average the participants were likely to increase acreage of their operation and were especially likely to increase planted acreage of high value specialty crops following their participation in Extension programming.

Moreover, farmer participants reported that the Extension programs offered in 2021 would likely help them become more sustainable, profitable, and create more employment opportunities in their operation.

Lastly, non-farmer educational program attendees reported they were more likely to start farming professionally and all surveyed

**More than 50 growers received training from our office in FDA Food Safety Modernization Act requirements for specialty crop farms and markets.**

*Frank Gieringers talks about greenhouse plants during field day.*





# Horticulture Fruit & Vegetable Production

attendees reported they were more likely to purchase/consume more locally produced fruits and vegetables.

In 2021 Johnson County Extension completed a 2-year grant project with KDA to deliver education and research for tree fruit producers in northeast Kansas, focused on developing high density apple production in Kansas. This project's timely research educated producers and over \$35,000 in equipment and materials helped train the local farm economy.

Likewise, our horticulture team co-authored a proposal with Cultivate KC and received \$15,000 in grant funding from U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Project: "Increasing Climate Resiliency Among Beginning Farmers in Kansas City and Beyond."

Johnson County Extension supported the Kansas Specialty Crop Growers Association (KSCGA) in managing a \$61,000 grant and secured an additional \$9,000 in funding for their farmer members. Horticulture agents and specialists from across KSRE work to support commercial producers through their collaboration with the KSCGA.

By taking on leadership roles within this partner organization, Johnson County Extension's participation on the KSCGA's Board of Directors has contributed over \$60,000 of grant funding to support KSCGA's resources for Kansas farmers, an 85% increase in the association's membership, and a 29% increase in scholarships granted to local food crop producers for the 2021 calendar year.

Data collected from KSCGA members this year provides statewide information on specialty crops grown, acreage, marketing and sales for 114 Kansas growers. With increased efforts in follow up, rollouts of an initial survey, and a new database, this number is expected to increase.

The COVID-19 pandemic dramatically increased demand for locally grown fruits and vegetables both from commercial sources and home gardens.

Extension conducted more than 35 formal presentations on fruit and vegetable production at virtual and in-person workshops, field days, classes and conferences for garden, farmer, and industry audiences totaling over 2,000 attendees.

Likewise, Johnson County Extension provided technical assistance and consultation to 1,340 unique contacts in the county government, industry and general public regarding horticulture and local food production issues and opportunities. Horticulture volunteers contributed over 2,000 hours of volunteer time to deliver fruit and vegetable educational programs and services. That same team produced and delivered over 4,000lbs. of fresh, locally grown food to residents through the WIC Community Garden Initiative at the Olathe Health Department.

They also launched a new donation-based farmers market at the WIC Community Garden in partnership with Johnson County Department of Health and Environment to raise funds for continued growth of that initiative and bring more local produce to WIC families, county staff and the local community.



*Local growers building a trellis at a workshop.*

# Engaging Our Communities

*By Tara Markley*

Community vitality is at the heart of Johnson County Extension's Community Development program. And while that engagement takes on several different forms and involves many partners, the goal is always the same; help people and communities be more successful. Even through a pandemic the role of facilitation is still key in the virtual, face-to-face and even hybrid setting.

## **Community Conversations Through Facilitation:**

Merriam-Webster defines the verb facilitate as “to make easier: help bring about.” As a Community Vitality Agent helping to facilitate conversations is the cornerstone of programming. How to facilitate a group through this process looks unique each time. The ultimate goal is to help the community partner, home owner association board, or extension volunteer group move forward in a productive manner.

Through facilitation this guided process supports growth and awareness.

This past year we have been actively supporting community partners in helping to facilitate group discussions ranging from strategic planning to group dynamics. The end goal is to help the organization meet a need which an outside facilitator can assist with by bringing a new perspective to the conversation. The role of an unbiased facilitator is something that Cooperative Extension services have been providing for many years. The ability to work with each group on a personal level to determine “what” the need of the group is and then creating the “how” to achieve the goals through our support is fulfilling.

**"After attending this class, I realized how much I didn't know I didn't know. Lots of very good information from the mechanics of running a meeting to the soft skills of understanding thinking styles and conflict resolution. Very much enjoyed and appreciate this class."**

**–Board Leadership Participant**



# Community Development

## Extension Office Growth

As with many other offices during the great resignation our team has seen several transitions over the last year. The dual role of Director and Community Vitality Agent has been a challenging balancing act. The foundation of any organization is the staff and how the team supports each other through the good times and the hard times. We are fortunate to have members who celebrated their 32 years of service to staff who are experiencing their first job out of college. This uniqueness creates a vibrant and never dull work place. As we move into 2022 our team is focused on supporting each other's strengths and working toward common goals for a highly effective office.

Highlights of staff transitions:

- Hiring a Natural Resources and Mid/Small Scale Agriculture Agent
- Building capacity in our 4-H program by adding an 8th Agent position to have two full time 4-H Youth Development Agents
- Creation of a full-time administrative program coordinator to support the EMFV and EMN programs

One of our most dedicated employees is Nancy Carr. She

has served as the part-time 4-H Youth Development School Enrichment Coordinator for 32 years! Nancy's passion for working with youth and people is a true asset to our office team.

Two of her main programs for our local schools are the chicken embryology kit and butterfly garden kit. Over the years many students, parents, teachers and principals seek Nancy out to say thank you for the wonderful programs she provides.

At last count the number of youth served by the school enrichment programs was over 4,000 for the year. If we took that times 32 years you can see the impact Nancy has had on educating our local youth and community. Nancy also serves as our Olathe Chamber liaison and proudly supports our local business community through her long tenure in the Chamber. We want to give a big shout out to Nancy Carr and her endearing heart and passion for all things K-State Research and Extension in Johnson County. Also thank you to all the Johnson County Extension staff as the office made many big transitions during the 2021 year.



*Johnson County Extension Office Staff at their yearly retreat. (Top Picture)*

*Nancy Carr, School Enrichment Coordinator, teaching chick hatching. (Bottom Picture)*

# The Foundation Improves the Lives of Johnson County Residents

By Rebekah Branch

The Johnson County Extension Education Foundation (JCEEF) has been a part of Johnson County K-State Research and Extension for 25 years and has provided a generous amount of support, both financially and physically. The Foundation's mission is to create awareness and provide financial support for Johnson County K-State Research and Extension programs which improve the lives of Johnson County residents. Volunteers work hard for their community so that Johnson County residents will know, support and utilize Johnson County Extension.

In 2021, the foundation granted \$18,800 to 10 groups to support their projects. Some projects included the 4-H Watch Your Waste Compost Bin, Johnson County Silver Clovers program, Extension Master Gardener projects, and 4-H background checks and more.



**\$18,800**  
granted in 2021



Join  
Community  
Educate



Johnson County  
Extension Education  
FOUNDATION

Join  
Community  
Educate

**K-STATE** | Johnson County  
Research and Extension

Foundation members Jan Sungail and Gayla Speer at the Johnson County Fair.

# Johnson County Extension Education Foundation

To raise money, JCEEF asks for people to become members, which includes admission to the annual dinner and auction. This is the primary source of funding for the Foundation grants. Members arrive to a lovely dinner, wine pull, balloon pop and an auction full of items like art, experiences, baked goods and gift baskets. This is such a fun event but took a break in 2021 due to COVID-19.

The Foundation did, however, have a smaller function for members at TopGolf to help with their fundraising needs. Members were invited to play golf and socialize outdoors with some great food. This was not the normal annual dinner, but it was still a way to get members together in a smaller, safer environment.

JCEEF is also a big supporter of Johnson County 4-H Youth Development. Every year during the Johnson County Fair, the Foundation assists with their annual project auction, which happens after all the static projects have been judged, like

woodworking, art, baking and more. In 2021, there were 44 youth who participated in the project auction. In total, the Foundation and 4-H raised \$10,920 that went back to the 4-H youth to support educational pursuits and their 4-H project work.

The Foundation does so much for the Johnson County community and for Johnson County Extension. Without their support, many programs and resources would not be possible.



*Charli M, showing her homemade suckers at the 4-H Project Auction.*



Johnson County  
Extension Education  
FOUNDATION



ADM

Arcare

Blue Valley Parks & Recreation

Blue Valley School District

Bonner Springs Library

Boys and Girls Club of Greater Kansas City

Catholic Charities of Olathe

Catholic Charities of Overland Park

City of Fairway

City of Lenexa

City of Olathe

City of Overland Park

City of Prairie Village

City of Shawnee

Conservation District, Johnson County

Deanna Rose Farmstead

Deep Roots KC

DeSoto Career and Technical Education Advisory

El Centro Inc.

Ernie Miller Nature Center

Farm Bureau

Financial Professionals Inc.

Friends of the Kaw

Greater Kansas City Food Policy Coalition

Growing Futures of Shawnee Mission

Haley and Aldrich

Harvesters

Johnson County Commission on Aging

Johnson County Continuum of Care on Homelessness

*Frank Gieringer teaching about Plasticulture Strawberries.*

# Partners

Johnson County Department of Health & Environment  
Johnson County Libraries  
Johnson County Mental Health  
Johnson County Parks & Recreation  
Johnson County TFM Office  
Kansas Beef Council  
Kansas City Wildlands  
Kansas Department for Children  
and Families  
Kansas Department of Aging  
and Disability Services  
Kansas Department of  
Agriculture  
Kansas Department of  
Health and Environment  
Kansas Department of  
Wildlife Parks & Tourism  
Olathe Prairie Center  
Kansas State University,  
Olathe Campus  
K-State Horticulture Research  
and Extension Center  
KVC Health Systems  
Lenexa Parks & Recreation  
MARC, Mid-America Regional  
Council  
Metro Lutheran Ministries Food Pantry  
Mission Southside  
My Resource Connection

New Hope Presbyterian Church Food Pantry  
Olathe Communities that Care  
Olathe Head Start  
Olathe Public Library  
Olathe School District  
Olathe Second Baptist Church Food Pantry  
Olathe Towers  
Overland Park Arboretum and  
Botanical Gardens  
Roeland Park Community Center  
Rolling Hills Presbyterian Church  
Safe Home  
Saint Agnes Catholic School  
Salvation Army Food Pantry  
Shawnee Indian Mission  
Shawnee Mission School  
District  
Southwest Mobile Dairy Unit  
St. Mark's United Methodist  
Waystation  
Unified Government of  
Wyandotte County  
Village Church Food Pantry  
WIC of Johnson County

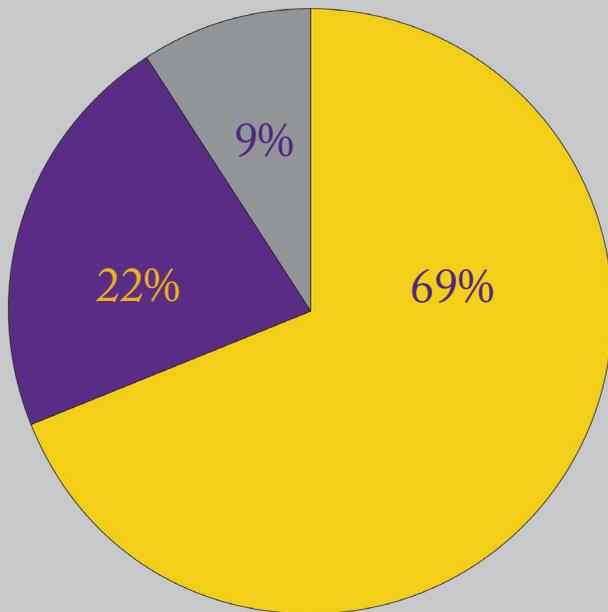


*Southwest Kansas Dairy Farmers Mobile Dairy Classroom instructor teaching students where milk comes from.*

# Funding

Our federal appropriation makes up \$5.2 million (9%) of the \$61 million K-State Research and Extension Cooperative Extension system budget. The vast majority of this federal appropriation for Cooperative Extension is from the Smith-Lever Act funding and its related offshoots.

Johnson County Extension augments its core funding from county, state and federal governments through grants, participation fees, product sales and private contributions.



- Johnson County Government- \$871,652
- Johnson County Extension Revenue- \$115,811
- Kansas State University & Federal Government - \$277,770

# Volunteers

We could not provide our high level of service without the dedication from our volunteers. They are passionate and hardworking for their community. Johnson County volunteers give back by facilitating research-based, accurate, unbiased Extension educational programming.

Volunteers in our three Master programs are interested in health and nutrition, horticulture, and natural resources and the environment. Training from university and industry experts increases their knowledge and skill.

## K-State Master programs:

### Extension Master Food Volunteers

- Volunteers: 82
- Hours: 5,055

### Extension Master Gardeners

- Volunteers: 492
- Hours: 46,107

### Extension Master Naturalists

- Volunteers: 140
- Hours: 6,326

## Additional programs:

### 4-H Youth Development (adult & youth)

- Volunteers: 300
- Hours: 14,400

### Family and Community Education

- Volunteers: 87
- Hours: 738

### Home and Family Volunteers

- (VITA, SHICK & others)
- Volunteers: 116
  - Hours: 4,339

Total Volunteers:

**1,217**

Total Volunteer Hours:

**76,965**

## Dollar Value of Extension Volunteer Service to Johnson County



\* Source: Independent Sector 2020 for Kansas wages

# Key Stakeholders

## Kansas State University Research and Extension

### Richard B. Myers

President

### Charles S. Taber

Provost and Executive Vice President

### Dr. Ernie Minton

Dean,  
College of Agriculture  
Director,  
K-State Research and Extension

### Dr. Gregg Hadley

Director,  
Extension and Applied Research

### Headquarters

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Manhattan, KS 66506  
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### Johnson County

K-State Research and Extension  
11811 S. Sunset Drive  
Suite 1500  
Olathe, KS 66061  
913.715.7000  
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## Johnson County Board of County Commissioners

### Ed Eilert

Chairman

### Becky Fast

First District Commissioner

### Jeff Meyers

Second District Commissioner

### Charlotte O'Hara

Third District Commissioner

### Janeé Hanzlick

Fourth District Commissioner

### Michael Ashcraft

Fifth District Commissioner

### Shirley Allenbrand

Sixth District Commissioner

## Johnson County Managers

### Penny Postoak Ferguson

County Manager

### Maury Thompson

Deputy County Manager

### Joe Waters

Assistant County Manager

### Joseph M. Connor

Assistant County Manager

## Johnson County Extension Council

### Dave Rock

Chair

### Vince Petrillo

Vice Chair

### Susie Mize

Secretary

### Judy Sharp

Treasurer

### Nancy Chapman

### Barb Boggs

### Arn Eccles

### Heather Schaller

### Cindy Beals

## Extension Program Development Committees

### Agriculture and Natural Resources

Julie Dowd  
Susan "Sue" Beamer  
Vince Petrillo  
Dave Rock  
Jim Walton  
Earle C. "Bud" Smith

### Family and Consumer Sciences

Heather Schaller  
Chris Flores  
Cindy Nice  
Susie Mize  
Cindy Beals  
Angela Parks

### 4-H/Youth Development

Lori Bainter-Ratzlaff  
Barb Boggs  
Danelle Huske  
Megan Clark  
Arn Eccles  
Kerry Johnson

### Community Development

Nancy Chapman  
Jessica Looze  
Craig Wood  
Larry Dolci  
Elisa Waldman  
Judy Sharp



**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

Johnson County

**JOHNSON**  
**COUNTY**  
KANSAS

In partnership together

Kansas State University, County Extension Councils, Extension Districts, and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating. K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer, and is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to physical, vision, or hearing disability or a dietary restriction please contact your local extension office.

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