

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 need to continue producing food during drought, expensive inputs, and challenging times.

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 8,799 jobs and \$1.88 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 years with higher fertilizer cost, higher fuel, more expensive parts and machinery cost, the aging farming population, and many weather challenges. The goal has been to keep food products for our consumers.

How did Extension address this issue?

Shawnee County Extension hosted 5 Coffee/Cookies/ and Conversation meetings in January/February 2023 with 87 local Farmers/Ranchers attending. The Topics this year were: Farm and Ranch Taxes and How to Plan Your Income and Expenses, Weathering the Storm in Agriculture: Cultivating a Productive Mindset, Soil Health Outreach/Rainfall Stimulator Outside Field Day, Farm Transition and Legal Issues with Farming, Pasture and Crop Ground Leases and Fence Laws, and Federal-State-and County Program/Partnerships for Farmers and Ranchers.

What was the impact?

100% of the farmers/ranchers attending rated the classes as Excellent or Very Good. Many plan to make positive changes in their agriculture operations with information they received from these classes. Pictured are farmers at the 2023 Farm Transition and Legal Issues with Farming. The ones attending plan to create a transition plan and work with a lawyer to get the plan finalized and in place.

