

Dear Meadowlark Extension District Supporters,

Please review our summer edition of the Meadowlark Extension District “Extension Response” that highlights some of the programs offered by our district staff and volunteers. Our focus is on solving grand challenges around water, health, global food systems, vitalizing our communities and growing tomorrow’s leaders.

Sincerely
David Key

Meadowlark Extension District Director

Health

Local Training on Food Preservation Methods

Food preservation is a popular means of preserving food for many families. To help educate district residents, a “hands-on” food preservation workshop was conducted covering drying, pressure and boiling water bath canning methods. Food Safety Specialists from K-State Research and Extension and district staff presented the day long workshop this June in Grantville. The workshop featured drying herbs, canning low-acid vegetables, tomato salsa and making



Food Preservation Workshop participants drying herbs.

several sweet spreads, while learning the latest in food preservation techniques and methods.

Twenty-eight adults and youth participated in the workshop along with two extension agents from South Dakota who are wanting to conduct similar workshops in their own state. Evaluations were conducted with all participants stating that they learned a great deal from this workshop and what a valuable experience it was for them.

Global Food Systems

Train the Trainer Humane Animal Handling

With so much adverse publicity about dairies in the popular press the Meadowlark Extension District chose to host a Train the Trainer meeting for proper dairy animal handling. The purpose of the training was to give those closest to the animals the correct tools to train workers on the proper standard operating procedures. We expect that key people from the dairies will educate their peers with resources that were shared with them at the workshop.

The meeting was presented in English and Spanish. Four dairy managers and seven Spanish speaking employees participated in the meeting.



Dairy farm employees participate in the Humane Animal Handling training meeting.



Meadowlark Extension District 4-H Campers and Counselors at the 2017 4-H Camp at Rock Springs Ranch
Growing Tomorrows Leaders

Overnight Camp/Conference Experiences for Youth

One of the most positive aspects of the 4-H Youth Development program is the experiences gained through over-night camping/conference experiences. During the months of May and June, 4-Hers from across the state make the Kansas State University campus in Manhattan and Rock Springs 4-H Center south of Junction City, the destination for camps and conferences such as Discovery Days and 4-H Camp.

Twenty-one Meadowlark District youth and adult chaperones were part of annual Kansas 4-H Discovery Days, on the K-State campus in Manhattan during late May. Delegates sign up for classes, attended group assemblies with guest speakers, live in the college dorms and enjoy social time during their stay in Manhattan.

Pioneer Trails 4-H camp is the highlight of summer for many 4-H youth who participate in this annual summer time activity. Camp is a learning adventure like no other place to learn self-confidence, cooperating with others and life beyond one's own world. Meadowlark District was fortunate to experience an increase in the number of campers attending camp

this summer with one hundred eight campers, twelve youth counselors and four adults attending camp.

Community Vitality

Frauds & Scams Awareness

Reports of frauds and scams seem to be in the news daily. The Federal Trade Commission gets more complaints about identify theft than any other scam.

Over the past few months, 62 people were reached with this program. Participants learned about identity theft, impostor scams, charity fraud, and 'you've won' scams. Information and tools were shared to help prevent these frauds and scams from happening.

Community Vitality and Global Food Systems

The Value of Trees!

One of the 'reactive' programming needs in the Meadowlark Extension District is the response to horticultural related inquiries, with trees making up a good portion of those during the spring of this year. Our response may not seem like much on a large scale, but to the individual homeowner, it can be a big deal!

Take for example the homeowner who paid \$900 to have two pin oak trees moved to a new home construction site. As the trees struggled this spring, they sought advice. A web site based program called the National Tree Benefit Calculator <http://www.treebenefits.com/calculator/index.cfm> would estimate that the value of that tree to the landscape, energy savings, and other factors would be equivalent to \$28/year. If those two trees we evaluated survive and increase in size from a five-inch diameter to a 10-inch diameter, the value to the homeowner would increase to \$84/year/tree. In 2017, weekly news columns have also included a tree topic (Planting Trees – Start Them Off Right; Annual Spring Reminder – Pine Wilt; Tree Planting Rules; Shade Tree Disease – Anthracnose; Bagworm Treatment Time; Summer Tree Leaf Loss; and Summer Tree Care)

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