



COFFEY COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT

Jill Barnhardt - Agriculture & Natural Resource
Cassidy Collins – Family & Community Wellness




AGRICULTURE

The Coffey County Extension Agriculture program's purpose is to disseminate useful and practical research based information to the agriculture producers and community of Coffey County. In addition, to encourage the prudent use of such information to enhance agriculture production and profitability as well as the quality of life for the residents of the county. Its educational programming relies on the cooperative spirit of local volunteers and resources. The educational program planning receives formal input and direction from an elected, six - member Agriculture Program Development Committee.

The Agriculture / Natural Resources questions and foot traffic into the office continues with a steady follow of questions. Some of the most common topics are in regards to soil health and fertility. Coffey County producers take advantage of the NRCS cost share program which pays the cost of soil testing to help determine and develop a crop fertility program for their farm. Soil probes are provided at no cost for producer use to pull the samples which are brought into the Extension office for submission to the soils testing laboratory at Kansas State University. After receiving the test results, I then use the soil fertility data and KSU research crop fertility information and formulas to develop fertilizer recommendations for local producers. Over 50 samples were submitted the year and have included crops, pastures and home lawns & gardens.

We always have several asking questions about leasing rates/leasing laws. Ag Manager.com provides us a great place to be able to share local information with them. We are also able to access hay prices on this website. Roger McGowen continues to support agent with any ag law/fencing law topics that come up. Drought has contributed to many tree issues and the specialists on campus have been available to address this issues. Pond growth and identifying the pond growth is common at different times of the year.




Chemical Pesticide Usage continues to be a valuable tool enhancing the efficiency of today's farmer as well as a concern for the environment. The Coffey County Extension Service continues to assist with online certification of area farmers as "Private Pesticide Applicators" to meet federal regulations concerning the application of restricted use pesticides. In addition, the Extension Office continues the sale and distribution of the various control category manuals for commercial certification to individuals who need them for testing for commercial applicator certification. Pesticide Applicator Licenses tend to draw customers to our office as well.

K-State Research and Extension was able to participate in a 3-day tractor safety class in Emporia. I was able to teach and lead several sections of the class. We had 9 youth complete the course.

In partnership with the Frontier District, we had a meeting in Garnett on Using Drone Technology in Agriculture. 90 participants from across the state came to the presentation. The presenters talked about many different applications that can be used with this type of technology.

In-field Demonstration Plots are a valuable means of passing along the latest technology to producers in the county. This is the 10th year Coffey County Extension continued plot work at the Agronomic Demonstration Site, which was established with various demonstration plot areas. The 80 acres of cropland ½ mile north of the WCNO plant entrance usually consists of 2 "plot observation" areas as well as a 70-acre "in-field" data collection/research area. Last year, the 70-acre research area was in the final year as one site of several to be utilized in a grant-funded nationwide Conservation Initiative Grant project being conducted by Kansas State University agronomy specialist Deann Presley and graduate students. Soybeans were the cash crop planted on the field this year. We will continue to work with the university on field research that is valuable to farmers.



Conservation of Natural Resources continues to be a public concern affecting agriculture as well as its producers. Cooperation continues with the Coffey County NRCS and the Kansas Banker's Association to recognize those in the county who practice exemplary conservation techniques in their operations. Coffey County recognition includes awards for soil conservation, buffer establishment, and grassland maintenance as well as wildlife habitat improvement. Awards presentations are historically made at the NRCS Annual meeting held in February. The format for their annual meeting was changed a couple of years ago to a shorter format and inclusion of a Key Note speaker. Conservation education also includes cooperating with the NRCS on their youth conservation field day held at the Wolf Creek Outdoor Education area. I was able to have a presentation booth on "What's in your basket?" We discussed all the things in the grocery cart that came for crops in the Coffey County area. 88 student were able to participate.

Individual Homeowner Consultation and Farm Visits is another important component in providing county residents with the latest information pertaining to horticulture and agriculture. Variety selection, fertility, stocking rates and plant problem diagnosis information are often requested. In addition numerous questions pertaining to insect identification, damage and control come into the office especially during summer months. Generally, these often entail onsite visitations along with collection and submitting samples for verification to KSU on-campus departments including plant pathology, entomology, herbarium etc. and then reporting those results and recommendations to the client. Home horticultural plant damage assessment, concerns for the health of large trees normally dominate the horticulture information requests. Some of the more interesting "specimens" brought into the office for identification include insects / spiders, plants, fungi etc.

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Since its legislated inclusion into the Cooperative Extension Service's educational programming endeavors in 1988, programming in this area has been limited. Coffey County has a new Coffey County Chamber director as well as a new Economic Director. We are in hopes that we able to work together with them to form a partnership in developing new ideas in the county. The Community Vitality PDC will be meeting soon.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OUTSIDE OF 4-H

Coffey County Extension was asked again this year to participate in the Mock Interviews at the Waverly and Lebo Schools. Student interviewed for a job and we were able to review their resume and cover letter. This exercise helps in preparing student for future interviews.

We were asked to help with the Reality U program that was presented to Lebo /Waverly, Melvern and Lyndon students. This program gives students an idea of what the real world will be like.



4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Coffey County 4-H continues to grow, thanks to our wonderful group of volunteers. Our volunteers are made up of Program Development Committee members, leaders, sponsors, and helpers. During the 2023-2024 program year, we had 42 registered volunteers, 19 Cloverbuds and 159 members. We saw an increase in membership this year by 15 members. We are very proud of all the accomplishments our 4-Her's have achieved this year at the local and state level.

The Cloverbud program is in its ninth year in Coffey County. These members participated in Club Days as well as the County Fair with “show and tell” presentations featuring handiwork, foods, or hand pets. These opportunities allow them to start learning about 4-H and what projects might be of interest to them once they are old enough to be 4-H members.

During the month of October, Coffey County 4-H participated in various activities promoting National 4-H week. We had several 4-Her's complete radio spots promoting 4-H on the 97.7 The Dawg in Burlington. We held a 4-H Showcase in the extension office encouraging members to bring and present their projects to others.

November, December and January is time for program planning for the next spring and summer. This time is essential to talk with our PDC and Executive Board members and surrounding local units to get new ideas. This allows us to be innovative and bring new opportunities to the youth in Coffey County 4-H.

Club Days was in February and we had great participation throughout the county. All 5 clubs competed in the model meeting contest. Club Days gives 4-Her's the opportunity to present: project talks, demonstrations, illustrated talks, public speaking, interview skills, vocal and instrumental performances, dance, skits, or gavel games. We held the Favorite Foods Contest during Club Days. This year we had 86 entries and 3 Cloverbud presentations. From there, we had 21 entries advance on to Regional Club Days in March. One was a model meeting.

During the months of March and April, we held beef, sheep, swine, and meat goat weigh in. Countywide clean up at the fairgrounds was held in April in preparation for the Coffey County Spring Show. This year we had spring livestock shows including Beef / Sheep, Bucket Calf / Meat Goat and Swine. The shows were invitational and are attended by 4-H youth from numerous surrounding counties as well as an out-of-state participants.

Kansas State University hosted 4-H Discovery Days this year in June. We had two Coffey County 4-Her's attend - Rachael Barnhardt and Alonna Rodgers. They were able to meet other 4-Hers from around the state and grow their leadership skills during several different learning opportunities.



June brought the busiest time of year for 4-Her's with many opportunities. This year we had several participate in the Southeast Area Contests in Emporia and in Iola. They had the chance to participate in the following judging contests: Family and Consumer Science, Photography, Horticulture, Crops, Livestock, Meats, and Skillathon. We also had 4 members that qualified for Area Favorite Foods Contest.




Coffey County was selected to be part of the Kansas 4-H Summer Intern Grant Program for the third year. The grant allowed for 2 interns to be hired by KSU and housed in our office. The interns were able to receive up to \$5,000 in grant money for programing purposes. The summer interns Amanda Bohannon and Katie Ott offered 29 programs reaching 1,012 students in the Coffey County area.

Program partners were the USD 244- Burlington Elementary School Summer School program and Coffey County Libraries – Lebo Branch. The interns were able to lead several different program activities during our County 4-H camp as well as a couple activities during the county fair. They held several different classes here in the extension office. A Visual Arts class was led by a current Coffey County 4-Her Kyla Lankton. In a Sewing & Textiles design class, participants made pillow cases with the assistance from 2 adult volunteers. A Foods & Nutrition class was lead by Katie Ott and Cassidy Collins, the kids learned about basic cooking skills and food science. Our summer intern, Kyanna Lankton, lead a livestock showmanship class teaching different showmanship techniques. Cassidy Collins develop a Shopping in Style class to cover the new opportunities in the project. Supplies for all classes were purchased through the grant and totaled over \$4,000. These funds allowed the office to purchase items that can be used in future programs. The grant in total brought over \$20,000 in programming to our county.

This year's Coffey County 4-H camp was held at Eisenhower State Park at Melvern Lake. We had 45 campers, 16 counselors, 6 staff members and many volunteers. Camp did not go as planned thanks to an evening of thunderstorms. However, campers were still able to participant in a visual arts activity, where they made flags for their tents before we had to change our plans. We moved to Kelly Park in Burlington for the final day. We were able to have a water safety activity and then swim at the Burlington Swimming Pool. Campers were able to participate in archery, visual arts, photography and team building activities before the finale of the presentation of skits to the 4-H families.





We were grateful to receive all the meat needed thanks to a donation. Several volunteers helped put together programs, prepared all the meals, and helped monitor the overnight portion of camp. We would not be able to put this event on without all their hard work and willingness to volunteer; the success of our camp shows just how dedicated our volunteers are. Many friendships were created at camp. We had a wonderful group of counselors and campers.

July brought county fair with many activities. Demonstration Days was two weeks prior to the start of the fair. This year we had 21 entries and out of those, 10 qualified for the Kansas State Fair. We offered the following judging contests on the same day: Family and Consumer Science, Photography, and Crops. We had 22 FCS, 23 Photography, and 24 Crops judges. Entomology judging, created by 4-Her Caleb Durst, had 15 participants. The horticulture contest had 15 participants. Skillathon was held on the Saturday of the fair and we had 44 4-Hers compete.

The Coffey County 144th Fair was a success! We had 1,477 4-H results, which was an increase from the previous year. Many thanks to all those that make the fair happen. Volunteers contributed many hours to make this a memorable event for all Coffey County 4-Hers and their families. During the county fair, there was an effort to encourage 4-Hers to thank everyone that has helped them along the way. Thank you cards were made available for them to sign and were sent to the appropriate people. It takes many volunteers to make our county 4-H program successful.

Our office uses several different ways to communicate with families. 4-H Online broadcast emails, newsletter, Facebook, KSRE Coffey County website and a Facebook page called 4-H Moms (& Dads) was created in hopes to help keep parents informed of dates and upcoming events.

County wide project leader volunteers held countywide project meetings for Horse, Bucket Calf, Poultry, Rabbit, Self-Determined Bee and Shooting Sports Projects. We are hoping to add additional countywide project leaders next year.

The 4-H Program Development Committee (PDC) met this year and discussed policies and rules. We hope to use this committee as a sounding board for new ideas and plan to keep the members updated on any new guidance given to the local unit by K-State.

Project Record Reports are the records that complete the project work of the entire year. 4-Her's are encouraged to complete these records and are awarded with recognition for the quality of the work. The format is developed by the State 4-H office and is used for state project recognition and award determination. It is our hope that by encouraging the completion of the Project Record Reports in Coffey County, our members will receive recognition of their project work at area and state level competitions. ZSuite record books were introduced three years ago as the online record book format. We are seeing an increase in the number of 4-Her's using this option. Coffey County had over 175 Project Record Books and Officer books submitted for the judging that occurred in October. Of those, there were 18 books that have the opportunity to advance to the area level in January.

The 4-H Ambassador program consists of 4-H members who promote the local 4-H program to local residents. Audiences can include 4-H'ers, school groups, civic organizations, government officials, senior citizens, business people - any individual or group interested in learning more about 4-H! Our hope is to create a greater presence of this group in each of the communities in the county as well as expand their involvement in leadership roles, the fair and efforts to promote the 4-H program within the county to encourage participation and increase enrollment.



L-R: Brynna Wilson, Emma Krueger, Kyla Lankton, Kyzer Lehmann, Caleb Durst, Alonna Rodgers, Rachael Barnhardt

This year we were fortunate to gain two new ambassadors over the summer. We appreciate the Ambassadors' help in presenting awards at the fair, Achievement Reception, and Club Day as well as promoting 4-H throughout the year. They also coordinated local 48 Hours of 4-H Service projects within their clubs, and planned games and activities for other members. This group organized a "Kickoff event" for the fair that was a great success.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY WELLNESS

Individuals and families need practical, trustworthy information, skills, and assets to improve their quality of life and contribute to their communities. Personal, family, and community well-being is dependent upon many kinds of knowledge and skills that are all intertwined and inseparable. Our office provides a broad base of expertise to help teach essential living skills - positive relationships, healthy lifestyle choices, financial well being, and developing strong leaders and communities.

In this programming year, Jill served as the FCS Agent until her transfer to the Ag Agent in April. In January, we offered Stay Strong, Stay Health in partnership with the Coffey County Library - Lebo Branch. Stay Strong, Stay Healthy is designed to increase balance and strength to help older individual stay in their homes longer. It was an excellent class with several success stories. There were eleven participants.

A Kansas Day presentation about making tortillas in a bag was a fun way to promote Kansas Wheat and healthy snack options. 25 4th graders participated. This program was also offered to the Pre-School group at the Coffey County Library - Lebo Branch. 15 kids and parents learned a new recipe and ways to involve kids in a cooking activity.

Partnered with the Burlington Recreation Center to present two programs: Making Active Habits Stick (15 participants) and Managing Stress and Strain (5 participants). Regular physical activity has both immediate and long-term benefits for physical and mental health. But many people don't participate in regular exercise for a variety of reasons. This program promotes ways to overcome these barriers and build a regular habit of exercise. Everyone experiences stress differently, but you can learn ways to manage stress effectively. This program covered how stress affects your physical, mental, and emotional well-being and provided suggestions for ways to manage stress.




This year we had 65 individuals participate in Walk Kansas on 11 teams and 6 solo teams. The participants logged minutes/miles as well as consumption of fruits, vegetables, and water. Newsletters were shared with the walkers each month. This program is offered at the perfect time in spring to encourage people to get outside, get active, and focus on healthy lifestyle choices.

As the new FCS Agent to Coffey County, I, Cassidy Collins, am excited to learn the needs of the county and it's residents. I have spent most of my time this year getting to know the community, our current and potential partners, and am working to build relationships. This is something that takes time. Here is a snapshot of those things that I have been busy doing so far in my first 5 months.

Our office provides recipes to God's Storehouse in Burlington on a monthly basis to provide consumers with healthy recipes for those food items they receive. There is also information on food safety and nutrition that goes along with the recipes.

Canning and food preservation questions seem to be those most frequently asked on a day to day basis. I am always excited to use my education in Food Science and Safety to help answer those questions and provide pressure gauge testing. I have tested 4 gauges so far and hope to provide more programming on this topic in years to come.

One thing I was passionate about when starting here was the need to share research based information on current topics with consumers. I started submitting two news articles monthly to the news paper on topics ranging from food and nutrition, finances, health, adult aging and many more. I have also submitted KSRE articles for the Coffey County employee newsletter for the past several months. I will continue to do these things to help share reliable information with consumers.



In partnership with Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities, I have provided Child and Infant CPR, EAD and First Aid Training to 8 individuals, 5 of which will be working in the childcare field. This partnership has been beneficial to our county residents in the child care business as they can receive this training in a timely manner and for a reduced price or even free as opposed to expensive trainings that require travel to attend. On average, those that received their certification through our office saved \$80 per person.

The Coffey County Community Baby Shower served 20 mothers in the county. To help educate on the importance of Ages and Stages, I created a display and handed out informational packets to tell parents what developmental milestones to look for at various ages in their child's life. Those resources shared were part of the Better Brains for Babies program.

Professional Development

Jill:

This was a very unique year for me transitioning to the Ag/Natural Resources position in April. Prior to the change participated in the FCS monthly calls, as well as serving on the County Wellness Committee and the Coffey County Area Breastfeeding Coalition. I completed the Stay Strong Stay Healthy update training, Matter of Balance training, and Walk Kansas training. I completed the Civil Rights Training and the Cyber Training early this year. I participated in 4-H monthly calls, the Kansas 4-H Summer Enrichment Training, and Clifton Strengths. I served as the chair person for the Little Balkans SE Area Contests and committee chair for the Favorite Foods contest. I have participated in several new training this year the Agriculture area. I attended Beef Stocker Conference, Pre-Annual Conference Ag Agent Training, Animal Science Ag Update, Agronomy Update, and planning upcoming Farm Management PFT Agent Update. I have been able to be a part of several monthly ag calls for crop and livestock zooms for agents. I am a member of the Farm Management PFT and a member of the Kansas Association of County Agricultural Agents, National Association of County Agricultural Agents, and the Kansas Association of Extension 4-H agents.

Cassidy:

Locally, I served on the Coffey County Area Breastfeeding Coalition and Coffey County Wellness Committee. State-wide, I served on The 4-H Little Balkans Clover Foundation (also Treasurer) and the Kansas Junior Livestock Executive Committee as the Sheep Show Superintendent. For the past several years, I have served on the FCS Living Well Wednesday Team to bring updated programs from industry specialists to the local level. These committees serve a variety of purposes and I am glad to help provide leadership and give back to those areas both locally and state wide. I attended the following training sessions this past year: FCS Professional Development Academy, Southeast Area FCS Program Day, Stay Strong Stay Healthy, Better Brains for Babies. I continue to participate in all the monthly 4-H and FCS zoom calls for additional updates and trainings. I also took a very active roll in my Program Focus Team, Family and Child Development, to help update program materials. I recently changed my PFT to Food, Nutrition, Food Safety, and Health to better align with the needs of our county residents. I served on the Joint Council of Extension Professionals Agent Retention Committee to help brainstorm ideas to help support new agents, put better training in place, and provide a better onboarding experience to help with retention of Extension Agents across the state. This feedback was taken to campus leaders and changes the need for more support was the emphasis. I am a member of Kansas Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Accommodations:

K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services, and activities. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting Jill or Cassidy two weeks prior to the start of the event at 620-364-5313. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so.

2024 Coffey County Program Development Committees

AGRICULTURE

Megan Wilson, Kelsey Lingenfelter, Blake Holmes, Cody Collins, Alex Linsey, Brian Morray

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

Katie Rich, Carie Collins, Alison Smith, Fawn Plummer, Shelia Swank, Tammy Petrie

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Amy Foster, Lacy Lankton, Janine Dorr, Kelcey Lamar, Christina Morray, Aimee Ludlum

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Autumn Birk, Marilyn Krigbaum, Shannon Sherman, Walker Trimble, Alyssa Clarkson, Sarah Rice

2024 Coffey County Extension Council Members

CHAIRMAN – Megan Wilson

VICE CHAIRMAN – Carie Collins

SECRETARY – Lacy Lankton

TREASURER – Amy Foster

MEMBERS - Kelsey Lingenfelter, Carie Collins,
Janine Dorr, Aimee Ludlum, Shelia Swank

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