

Board Excellence

Information for Local K-State Research and Extension Board Members

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From the Associate Director ...

K-State Research and Extension annual partnership meetings will take place this month. These meetings reinforce the partnership between K-State and the board in providing effective local programming.

Effective local boards are important to the success of K-State Research and Extension. Plan to participate and engage in dynamic discussion on topics related to relevant, sustainable, and valued programming.

Each board chair will be asked to give an example of one of the following: strong local programming, a new audience they are reaching, or how they have supported professional development for local staff.

The meetings will be:

- January 18 in Yates Center
- January 19 in Manhattan
- January 25 in Cimarron
- January 26 in Wakeeney

More details are available from your local office.

— Daryl Buchholz, dbuchhol@ksu.edu

Website Serves as Resource for Boards

The Board Leadership website provides information for board members as they become acquainted with their roles and with K-State Research and Extension. Learning modules, which guide members in their leadership roles, are featured on the site. Each module can be used as a short presentation at a board meeting or as an independent study. The modules include *Board Orientation*, *Organizational Meeting*, and *Recruiting Board Members*, along with a dozen other topics.

The Board Leadership website can be found at www.ksre.ksu.edu/boardleadership.

Joint Board Meeting in January

County extension boards hold their joint meetings in January. The outgoing board conducts its final business as the incoming board organizes for the year. The *Board Organizational Meeting* module includes a Powerpoint presentation and handouts to guide the new board in reviewing members' responsibilities. To view it, go to www.ksre.ksu.edu/boardleadership. Click on "Board Leadership Modules" in the purple box at the lower left of the screen.

Consider Hosting an Intern Next Summer

From June to August 2011, nine local extension units in Kansas hosted interns. The intern program assists agents in expanding their educational programming, serves as a recruiting strategy for future agents, and helps students connect classroom learning with the workplace. The intern's salary is shared by the local unit and K-State Research and Extension, with each paying approximately \$2,900 for the period.

Proposals from local units interested in hosting interns are due February 10.

Reaching New Audiences

K-State Research and Extension is committed to relevance, sustainability, and value. To work toward those goals, we continue to expand our audience. Upcoming workshops, *Navigating Difference*, offer professional development opportunities for agents and office staff that will help them expand their skills in working with diverse audiences.

Navigating Difference is based on a set of cultural competencies and creates a safe, welcoming environment for all learners. Its activities respect and support individual learning styles. Participants' life

experiences are viewed as important sources of knowledge. They will:

- become more aware of their personal and organizational cultures,
- examine how personal and organizational cultures affect the ability to work across difference in both negative and positive ways, and
- build skills to increase competencies as we work with others who are different from us.

The training will be offered February 14–16, 2012, in Lawrence, and November 13–15, 2012, in Garden City. Please encourage agents and office staff from your unit to participate.

The Tuesday Letter

Each Tuesday morning K-State Research and Extension employees find *The Tuesday Letter* in their email inboxes. The newsletter includes a message from associate director Daryl Buchholz, event announcements, and regular features such as communication tips and examples of program impacts.

The Tuesday Letter can give you, as a board member, an overview of current topics of interest within K-State Research and Extension.

You can view current and archived copies of the Tuesday letter at <http://online.ksre.ksu.edu/tuesday>.

Plan to Manage Smoke Continues in 2012

Last spring ranchers in the Flint Hills considered the effects on urban areas of the smoke from prescribed burning activities. The educational effort was led by K-State Research and Extension.

Approximately 2.5 million acres of grassland are burned each April in the Flint Hills Tallgrass region of Kansas and Oklahoma. The burning inhibits the spread of undesirable plant species and leads to

better pasture quality, resulting in greater cattle weight gain. However, this practice sometimes negatively affects air quality in some urban areas.

To improve Kansas air quality but still benefit from grassland burning, the state legislature approved the Kansas Flint Hills Smoke Management Plan in December 2010. The plan was scheduled to be in place in time for last spring's burning season.

With only four months before implementation, K-State Research and Extension collaborated with its partners to develop educational programs for ranchers, county emergency staff, and the public about the plan's provisions. This comprehensive outreach program has the following goals:

- Inform the public and grassland owners and managers about the plan, as well as the weather and air quality implications of grass burning.
- Convey information about best management practices used to conduct a prescribed burn and relate those practices to available weather information.
- Improve air quality in urban and rural areas of Kansas while conducting prescribed burning.
- Educate the public about grassland ecology and the role of fire in maintaining this rare ecosystem.

To learn more visit: <http://www.ksfire.org>.

Extension Agents Star on YouTube!

Kansas extension agents are featured in four new *YouTube* videos. The videos are designed to help recruit applicants for agent positions. The videos also can be used as presentations at high school career fairs.

Topics are: "Preparing to be an Extension Agent," "A Typical Day as an Extension Agent," "Current Extension Programming," and "You're Not Alone."

To view the videos go to www.ksre.ksu.edu/jobinfo.