



Grant County Extension Annual Report

Grant County Extension Education program is supported by the Grant County Extension Council consisting of four Program Development Committees. Programming areas are 4-H & Youth Development, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Community Development and Family & Consumer Sciences.

Grant County Extension Staff

Billie Chesney
Agriculture and Natural Resources
and
4-H & Youth Development Agent

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4-H and Youth Development

Grant County 4-H had 161 youth enroll for 2015-2016. 4-Hers spent the year not only preparing for our county and state fairs, but also attending state and local camps, shooting sports and quiz bowl competitions, livestock shows, and doing service projects.



One of the highlights of summer 2015 was our raffle. 4-Hers earned over \$7,000 for 4-H Council. Those funds are used for camp scholarships, supplies for Achievement Banquet, and other educational activities in Grant County. We drew for the winners prior to the livestock sale at the county fair, and the grand prize was grill. It was a great success!



Our youth exhibited beautiful (and tasty!) creations from their project meetings, and shared their 4-H experiences with others. Our shooting sports youth had an exceptional year exhibiting their marksmanship, as well! It is a true testament to the talent and creativity we have in Grant County!



A large number of youth exhibit livestock, not only at the county level, but at the state level. Many had great success with the Cimarron Valley Livestock Series, State Fair, and more! We are proud of their accomplishments!



The Grant County Ambassadors were very sad to wish Mary Sullivan, our former Family and Consumer Sciences agent, farewell. Mary has taken the position of the Southwest Regional Director, based in Garden City. The Ambassadors came together and gave her a special gift for her to remember them by. We wish Mary the best of luck. Grant County 4-H was blessed to have her!



Family and Consumer Sciences



Mary and Billie took three 4-Hers to Citizenship in Action at the State Capitol in Topeka, Kansas. They learned about the legislative process by participating in mock legislation, debating hot topics. They got the chance to meet Governor Brownback and tour the State House.

Casandra Rodriguez placed in the Top Ten in Buymanship at the Kansas State Fair. This is quite an achievement!



Tammy Barb brought home the King Arthur Flour Baking Award at the Grant County Fair this summer. We have some tremendous cooks and bakers in the community!



This year in Walk Kansas, the participants kept track of their daily sugar, salt and fats. They were a part of a research project with the Health and Wellness Study.

SNAP-Ed

This was another great year in SNAP-Ed. The 2015-2016 grant year brought new challenges. The grant is moving toward working with parent/child teams. There are many partnerships in the community that allow this type of work. We will continue to partner so that we can increase the contacts and help clients gain knowledge to stretch their food dollars. Partners included Learn and Play, Grant County Recreation, Grant County Health Department and Loaves and Fishes. The USD #214 is a great place to reach our student contacts. Total SNAP-ED contacts for grant year 15-16 was 1453.



Learn and Play



Book in a Bag



Show Me Nutrition Bread in a Bag





After School Program



Summer Nutrition Classes at Grant County Recreation



Parent/Child Cooking Classes

Displays were placed at the Health Department and Loaves and Fishes. The information is changed out monthly. Information and recipes are placed here for clients to pick up.

Community Vitality

This year, Grant County was chosen as a host site for the Community Vitality Road Show. This program has not been held in southwest Kansas in the past 15 years, so it was a great pleasure to have the Community Vitality Team come to Ulysses and share their expertise. Jaime Menon, Trudy Rice, Nadine Sigle, Nancy Daniels, and Gregg Hadley spoke to us on the five pieces of Community Vitality, which are Entrepreneurship, Board Leadership, First Impressions, Art of Facilitation, and Kansas PRIDE, Inc. All five of these programs are available to all Kansas counties.



Mary facilitated the Women of Purpose in choosing to offer a grant for a free cancer screening clinic. It was a very successful event! Mary also took a trip to New England with the State Community Vitality Team to present on “The Art of Facilitation” at Nationals.



Agriculture and Natural Resources

Billie Chesney joined the team at Grant County Research and Extension as the new Agriculture and Natural Resources and 4-H Youth Development agent this past spring. As an agent who has many 4-H as well as Ag responsibilities, she has been exploring ways to overlap programming. For example, the livestock youth completed the Beef Quality Assurance Training online through the Beef Checkoff, and the Pork Quality Assurance program in order to show and sell animals at the county fair. Gary Boldt keeps Billie sharp by bringing her new weeds to identify as often as he can! The Extension Office offers up-to-date, unbiased, research based information for all of our local producers.

