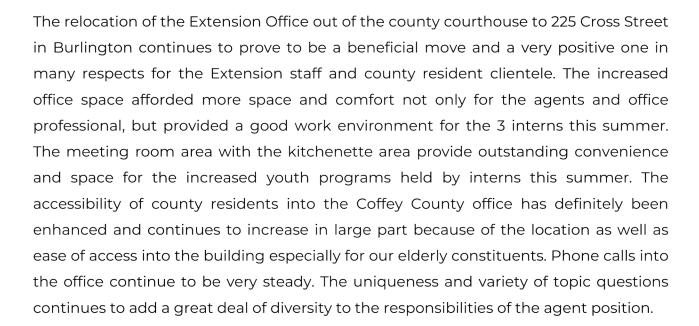


Darl W. Henson - Agriculture & Natural Resource Jill Barnhardt – Family & Consumer Sciences



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.



As in past years, a large portion of consultations with land owners continue to pertain to land lease rates and land values of both cropland and pasture. The bulk of the situation inquiries pertain to pasture land. I continue to utilize the "KSU Land Lease" and "Pasture Lease" computer programs and various land value publications including the "Kansas Land Values" now annually updated by KSU Extension Ag Econ specialists. The publications and computer program is used in combination to help analyze the current situation and generate an "equitable" starting point for landlords and tenants to begin negotiations toward a "fair" lease agreement. In addition Coffey County Extension again served as a host site for another installment of a Women in Ag series. This year the hybrid online / in-person programs not only involved Kansas but Nebraska and Indiana as well. Delivery as in the past was thru a combination of internet ZOOM presentations by keynote speakers, local speakers and host agent facilitators of in person activities and presentations. This year's focus was on leasing agriculture land and included topics pertaining to determining an equitable land lease, lease law, landlord tenant relationships and negotiations and conservation considerations when leasing. As agricultural agent I presented locally on three topics including Kansas Fence Law and Determining an Equitable Lease utilizing the KSU Lease program. We had 18 participants including one male. Got many positive comments from participants about the quality of the program.



A pasture concern that has gained increasing attention the past few years is the invasion of "broom sedge bluestem" into native pastures and prairie hay meadows. This grass which is also unpalatable to cattle threatens to lessen the quality of pasture for grazing or the hay harvested from infested meadows. It is thought that "broom sedge" invasion is the result of mismanagement of either haying or grazing in combination with soil fertility problems. This year was the second for an on-farm control trial in cooperation with an affected Coffey County farmer. Continuation of the demonstration site with replicated treatments of various rates of Phosphorus and lime was once again applied with the cooperation of Bruno e Pedreia, SE Area Extension Agronomist. This plot will serve as another replication to compliment research being done in several area counties.

Chemical Pesticide Usage continues to be 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 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.

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. Samples submitted have included crops, pastures and home lawns & gardens.

CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES K-STATE Research and Extension

On average across the county fertilizer recommendations for Nitrogen alone based on county average soil test results continue to be approximately 20 to 40 pounds per acres lower than using crop removal figures as the basis. With the current increase in nitrogen fertilizer costs almost triple that of historic prices, that would result in roughly a \$3 million savings to Coffey County farmers for that single nutrient on the 55,000 acres of corn and wheat ground planted, just by using soil testing. The need for soil sampling to base fertilizer applications becomes of greater importance from an economic standpoint now more than ever before.

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. I cooperated with them and was able to secure Roger Mceown, Washburn Ag Law Professor who is also "on retainer" as KSU Ag Law specialist, to be the speaker and talk about Kansas Fence Law. Conservation education also includes cooperating with the NRCS on their youth conservation field day held at the Wolf Creek Outdoor Education area. After three years in a row of not conducting their annual field day, it was able to be held again this year. In addition, I attend and participate in the SLT meetings for the John Redmond WRAPS which combined the Upper Neosho and the Cottonwood WRAPS groups. These groups work with local farmers on conservation projects and provide an additional source of grant funds based cost share funding to help them with their establishment of approved conservation practices.



In-field Demonstration Plots can be a valuable means of passing along the latest technology to producers in the county. This is the ninth 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 WCNOC plant entrance again usually consists of 2 "plot observation" areas as well as a 70 acre "in-field" data collection/research area. The current focus of plots and research continued to be on the utilization of cover crops in no-till cropping systems. The 70 acre research area served for the third and 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. The final year for this project at this site was disappointing in that due to extenuating circumstances the density of the cover crops grown did not meet minimum requirements of the project protocol. Therefore, there was no soil data collected this year only harvest data to be included for the final analysis. Corn was the cash crop planted on the field this year. There were no cover crop observation plots planted this year on the six and nine- acre areas just a cash crops of corn and soybeans.

With the extreme moisture early in the hay season and then the ensuing drought in late summer, both hay quantity and hay quality variation presented itself again in this years' hay harvest. Feed and forage sampling as well as stretching available forage supplies, will be a point of emphasis heading into winter this year to help producers ensure adequate nutrition for wintering cattle. Also because of the drought and stress on forage plant growth, nitrate toxicity is of increased concern and greater than normal numbers of samples sent in have included analysis for nitrate level. I continue to offer a program where I will pull up to 20 forage samples for a producer at no charge other than them paying for the sample analysis. I will also be collaborating with the Coffey County Conservation District on a pilot program to cost share with a set of core producers to promote forage sampling and analysis. I will be core sampling the bales for analysis at SDK labs and then host an informational meeting for to discuss how knowing what is being fed can affect the economics of supplemental feeding in the winter.



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



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 2022-2023 program year, we had 42 registered volunteers, 21 Cloverbuds and 145 members. We saw an increase in membership this year. We are very proud of all the accomplishments our 4-Hers have received this year locally, at the state level and the national level.

Cloverbuds are in the eighth year. They have been able to participate in Club Days as well as Coffey County Fair with "show and tell" presentations featuring handiwork, foods or hand pets.



In November, Coffey County Poultry judging team represented Kansas at the National Poultry judging contest in Louisville, KY. Emma Krueger, Kyla Lankton, Kyzer Lehmann, and Zane Edelman (19th overall individual) all participated. Countywide Poultry leaders Dave and Debbie Redding, volunteered their time to this group. They spent many hours preparing and studying for this contest.



Club Days was in February and we have great participation throughout our county. All five club competed in the model meeting contest. Club Days gives 4-Hers the opportunity to present: project talks, demonstrations, illustrated talks, public speaking, interview skills, vocal and instrumental performances, dance, skits or gravel games. We also hold our countywide Favorite Foods Contest during Club Days. This year we had 108 entries and 5 Cloverbud presentations and it was an increase of 10 entries from last year.

Coffey County 4-H participated in Regional Club Days in March at Madison High School. We had 15 entries at Club Days. We had several individual entries as well as one 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 participant.



Kansas State University hosted 4-H Discovery Days this year in June. We had four Coffey County 4-Hers Caleb Durst, attend. Rachael Barnhardt, Emma Krueger and Brynna Wilson. They were able to meet other 4-Hers from around the state and their grow leadership skills during several different learning opportunities.



Emerald Circle Banquet was held during 4-H Discovery Days. Coffey County had three 4-Hers recognized for winning state project record awards at the state level. This allows

them the opportunity to attend National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, GA in November 2023 if they hadn't been a winner in the past and travel to National 4-H Congress prior. Daniel Rausch-Blue Ribbon 4-H Club. Kyla Lankton-Stringtown Bombers 4-H Club and Mackenzie Krueger-Stringtown Bombers 4-H Club were 2022 State Project Award Winners. Daniel Rausch won with his Self-Determined project on bees, Kyla Lankton won with her Visual Arts project and Mackenzie Krueger won with her Entomology project about bees. These Coffey County 4-Hers have worked countless hours promoting, educating others and learning about their projects.





June bring the busiest time of year for 4-Her as well as many opportunities for them. This year we had nine attend and participate in the Southeast Area Contest in Emporia. They had the chance to participate in Family and Consumer Science Judging, Photography Judging, Horticulture Judging, and Crops Judging. We also had four that qualified for Area Favorite Foods



and three of them chose to compete. Coffey County was well represented and bought home several awards.

Southeast Area Livestock Judging Contest was held in Yates Center and we had five participate. They were able to compete in Meats Judging, Skillathon and Livestock Judging. In addition 4 individuals competed at State 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes contest in Manhattan which includes Livestock Judging, Meats judging and Skillathon & Quiz Bowl.

Coffey County was selected to participate the Kansas 4-H Summer Intern Grant Program for the second year. The grant allowed for two interns to be hired by KSU and be housed in our office. The interns were able to receive up to \$5000.00 in grant money for programing. Summer interns Amanda Bohannan and Janella Newton put in countless hours preparing and completing programs. They were able to complete 35 programs reaching 902 students in the Coffey County area.



Program partners were the USD 244- Burlington Elementary School Summer School program; USD 243 Lebo / Waverly – Lebo Elementary Summer School programs and Waverly Elementary Summer School programs, and Coffey County Libraries – Lebo. Interns were able to lead several different program activities during the Coffey County 4-H camp as well as a couple activities during the fair. They held 6 different classes here in the extension office. They held a 2 part photography class led by past 4-Her Macy Fairchild and used grant funds to purchase new cameras. Visual Arts classes were led by current Coffey County 4-Her Kyla Lankton and they met twice. Then Amanda led a two part cake decorating class. All supplies were purchased through the grant. We were also able to purchase two stand mixers for future programs. Total grant expenses were over \$4000.00. These funds allowed the office to purchase items that can be used in future program over next several years. The grant in total brought over \$20,000 to our 4-H program.



This year, Coffey County 4-H, traveled to Eisenhower State Park at Melvern Lake for camp. We had 33 campers, 11 counselors, 5 staff members and many volunteers. Campers were able to participate in archery, biking, hiking, fishing, kayaking & canoeing, and visual arts. Several volunteers helped with and lead several programs for camp. Community partner Kelsey Porter with NRCS assisted with the hiking program. We had all the hamburger and sausage needed for camp donated. One volunteer grilled all the hamburgers, one prepared all the sloppy joes, and we had two volunteers handle coordinating, purchasing and preparing all the meals. Many bonds were created at camp. We had a wonderful group of counselors and campers. The success of camp shows that we have the best volunteers around.



July brought fair with many activities. Demonstration days is two weeks before the fair. This year we had 14 entries and out of those 6 qualified for the State Fair. The same days we offered Family and Consumer Science (FCS) judging, photography judging and crops judging. We had 16 FCS and 13 photography judgers. Crops judgers had an additional opportunity to judge again at the fair and we had a total of 19 between the two events. Entomology judging created by 4-Her Caleb Durst had 17 participate. Livestock judging on Saturday of the fair had 39 4-Hers judge.

Coffey County 143rd Fair was a success. We had 1343 4-H results slightly down from the previous year. 34 Grand Champions, 32 Reserve Grand Champions, 126 Class Champions, 95 Reserve Class Champions, 310 Purples, 522 Blues, 176 Reds, and 33 whites. 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 also along the way. Thank you cards were made available for them to sign and then were sent to all the appropriate people. It takes many volunteers to make our county 4-H program successful.

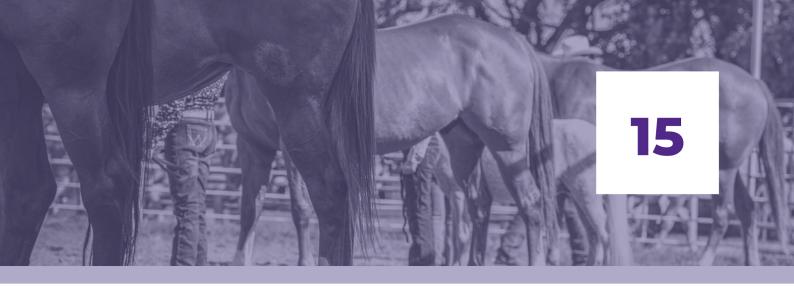
As the new 4-H year approaches we begin working on National 4-H Promotion. Activities this year include...Banners in each elementary school with Join 4-H bookmarks, big spread in the newspaper, sidewalk chalk and Clovers for sidewalks. 24 4-Hers recorded radio spot with the 97.7 DAWG in Burlington.

A Facebook page called 4-H Moms (& Dads) was created in hopes to help keep parents informed of dates and upcoming events. It has 117 members.

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

The 4-H Program Development Committee (PDC) will meet this year and discuss policies and rules.

To wrap of the 4-H year and kick off the New Year...4-H members were invited to participate in the 4-H Showcase during the office Open House on October 18th. We had more 4-Hers attended than we had the year before. We had 9 4-Hers get the opportunity to present one or more of their projects to the group. We are hoping to grow this event in the future.



Project Record Report is the record that completes the project for 4-Hers. 4-Hers are encouraged to complete the Project Record Report and are awarded with recognition of the quality of the work. The format is developed by the state 4-H office 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 recognition of our local 4-Hers doing exceptional project work at the area and possibly the state level increases. Z Suite record books were introduced two years ago and is an online record book. We are seeing an increase in the number of 4-Hers using this option. Coffey County had over 175 Project Record Books and officer books submitted for the judging that occurred in October. We will have 20 project record books that have the opportunity to advance to the area level in January.

Coffey County Ambassador program continues to try and expand the number of youth selected thru the interview process to serve as ambassadors and extend their potential years of service. We hope to create a greater presence of this group in each of the communities in the county as well as expand their involvement in 4-H leadership roles, the fair and efforts to promote the 4-H program in the county to encourage participation and increase enrollment. We always lose some outstanding



individuals to graduation but fortunately pick up some exceptional new additions along the way. 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 coordinate local 48 Hours of 4-H Service projects within their clubs, and plan games and activities for kids. This group organized a "Kickoff event" for the fair.



4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT - OUTSIDE OF 4-H

Gray for a Day Program was poplar at the schools this year. Waverly High School requested the Gray for a Day Program for four classes. The Southern Coffey County Family and Consumer Science teacher requested that I teach Gray for a Day to the student that would be preparing to be a guardian for the Honor Flight. The Gray for a Day program simulates the aging process. High school students experiences hearing loss, vision issues, breathing issues as well as stiff finger joints.

Coffey County Library Gridley branch inquired about a Cake in Mug class for kids at the library. The kids learned how to measure ingredients and learned about microwave safety.



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.

I was asked to judge Cupcake Wars at Southern Coffey County. Students decorated cupcakes in a theme and then decorated the table to match. This helps the students in the interview process as well as being able to explain reasons for the themes.

I taught a Blender Smoothie Lesson at Southern Coffey County. We learned about different ways of making a healthy smoothie.

In continued cooperation with the Burlington Elementary School and the 21st Century Grant, we provide programing to the After School Program. This year we provided team building activities and a fun activities that help students study things that were similar in shape and size. This activity was to focus on their perspective of food and liquid items.

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

I was asked to judge at the FCCLA contest in Iola and we able to learn about all the programs that they offer.

Economic and Community Development

Since its legislated inclusion into the Cooperative Extension Service's educational programming endeavors in 1988, programming in this area has been limited.

The Community Vitality PDC will be meeting soon.

Family & Consumer Sciences

Coffey County Extension office provide recipes to God's Storehouse in Burlington on a monthly basis. After the commodity list is received, I try to provide recipes that are specific to the items that they will be receiving. The recipes are sources from several different educational websites. All recipes will contain the recipe as well as the nutritional facts. Sometimes educational pieces from the K-State Rapid Response Center newsletter.

EHU Fall Day was held at the extension office on November 8th. Meeting attendance continues to be a challenge, it was a small crowd but good conversations. This years' program was assistive technology utilizing a kit from the Adult Aging and Development PFT. Coffey County Health (hospital), Coffey County Health Department, Coffey County Transportation, and Coffey County Libraries all presented on the services offered in the county.

Budgeting and financial planning has continued at Judge Wine's request. I have worked with a family on budgeting utilizing family resource management materials. The family has shown great growth in understand the budgeting process. We have reduced the meetings from monthly to quarterly at this timing.

In January, KSRE Coffey County and the Coffey County Libraries started a new program called "Spice of the Month". This is a partnership between the extension office and the county libraries. We were both looking for ways to increase the traffic back into the libraries and get a program out that would touch different ages and demographics. Each month libraries were given 2 recipes with a specific spice for the month. We planned for 10 recipes at each library each month. The program exceeded our expectations by four times what we originally planned for. This program was able to reach patrons of all ages. The library staff reported that it brought people in that they hadn't seen before. The recipes encourage people to try new healthy recipes and explore spices to reduced sodium intake with other options. This program was a HUGE success. Thank you to Coffey County Libraries for partnering on this project. At this time, we have shared over 1,200 recipes.



East Central Area Agency on Aging requested a presentation on Microwave Cooking for One. Presentation was held at the Burlington Library and had good attendance. The materials used were developed by Frontier District Extension.

In January, we offered Stay Strong, Stay Health in partnership with the Coffey County Recreation Center. Stay Strong, Stay Health is designed to increase balance and strength to help older individual stay in their homes longer. It was an excellent first class. The class will be offered again after the beginning of the year in a new location. I offered an Air Fryer / Instant Pot class at the Gridley Library. There is not a lot of education on air fryer and instant pots. We reviewed the benefits of healthy eating that the air fryer offers. We had good attendance.

This year we had 152 participates on 27 different teams and 12 solos. These numbers represent Coffey County and Lyon County. The participated logged minutes/miles as well as fruits, vegetables and water. 11,674 miles were logged which is approximately 2,800 miles more than previous year. Newsletters were shared with the walker each month. Involved in this activity came at a great time when people need to be outside and focusing on health practices.

Active Aging Expo- Coffey County Extension was on the planning committee for the Age Well Series. In replacement of the Aging Expo, we developed a series of topics to be available in April and May. This was a virtual event with organized watch sites in the area. Frontier District, Marais des Cygnes District, Angels Care Home Health, East Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging and Coffey County Extension worked together to present this program. Coffey County Extension office was a watch site. April 5th we offered Meals in Munites & Radon: Know Your Risks, May 11th we offered Small Steps to Better Health & Simple Tools to Make Life Easier.



A StoryWalk® promotes both literacy and physical fitness for families in a fun and exciting way. The StoryWalk® contains laminated pages from a children's book that are attached to signposts, which are along a path for families to walk and read. "The StoryWalk® Project is the creation of Anne Ferguson and the Kellogg-Hubbard Library from Montpelier, Vermont and it is described as: "An innovative and delightful way for children and adults to enjoy reading and the outdoors at the same time." Learn more about The StoryWalk® Project here:

http://www.kellogghubbard.org/storywalk.

Summer StoryWalk® lasted for 3 weeks. We had 3 different books that rotated between the libraries after being out for 2 weeks at each location. This event was a success.

StoryWalk® during the Coffey County Fair - resulted in fun for all.

Throughout the year I received numerous canning questions. The majority of questions are forward to the food lab on campus. In addition, I have tested over a dozen pressure gauges this year.

Community Baby Shower- Coffey County has been designated as a "Community Supporting Breastfeeding" since 2017 with the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition. This year the community baby shower served 15 moms in the county.

Committee Involvement...Committee involvement changes from year to year. This year, I worked with the Coffey County Health Department in created a Christmas Wish list for people receiving Meals on Wheels. The county was about to collect and distribute 30+ gifts to people. I was also part of the Coffey County Area Breastfeeding Coalition. This committee has created a new group in partnership with the county health department and the hospital. The new group is to support new mothers. I served as the Chair of the Little Balkans group. I was Favorite Foods co-chair for the SE Area Contests. I have also served on the County Wellness Committee Meeting.



Professional Development

Darl: In order to maintain a substantial level of technical knowledge and professionalism I attended several improvement training sessions. Among them were annual Agent Updates in areas of Livestock, Ag Economics and Agronomy as well as Extension Agent Program Focus sessions In Farm Management and Animal Science conducted by Extension Specialists at Annual Conference. I will continue to participate in the special training sessions held for agents to prepare for the use of FINPACK computer program for farm financial analysis.

Jill: I attended many different training sessions this past year. In trying to keep a good balance between Family and Consumer Science training, I am not always able to attend all the trainings I would like. This past year, I participated in the 4-H Youth Program Rally, Walk Kansas training, Dining with Diabetes – update, Communications Signature Program, Money Habitubes, and Count Your Pennies. I participated in Annual Meeting that it had several different breakout sessions. The Kansas 4-H Summer Enrichment Grant required a couple days of training in Manhattan and continued training throughout the summer. I continue to participate in all the monthly 4-H / FCS zoom calls.

Staff Update

We were privileged to have Amber McCarty as our summer intern this year. Amber was helpful before, during and after the fair with paperwork, placings, et cetera. She was also able to help us with 4-H Camp.

Kansas State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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 Darl 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.

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FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES –Katie Rich, Carie Collins, Alison Smith, Mary Davies,

Jenifer Hugunin, Salli Stewart

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT –Amy Foster, Coltlyn Hale, Travis Skillman, Lacy Lankton,
Janine Dorr, Kelcey Lamar

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Autumn Birk, Marilyn Krigbaum, Shannon Sherman,
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2023 RESEARCH and EXTENSION STAFF

Coffey County Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources Darl W. Henson, dhenson@ksu.edu

Coffey County Extension Agent, Family & Consumer Sciences

Jill Barnhardt, jbarnhardt@ksu.edu

Coffey County Extension Office Professional/Program Assistant Hali Spielman, halib@ksu.edu

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