



## The New Decade and the 2020 Vision of Southwind Extension District

**In 2014, land-grant universities celebrated 100 years of Cooperative Extension in the United States.** In the Southwind District, we look forward to another 100 years of bringing vital, practical information to agricultural producers, small business owners, consumers, families, and young people. We have a responsibility to our clientele and colleagues to maintain high quality educational programs, and a relevant and responsive organization. We will strive to bring the absolute best of ourselves and of Kansas State University Research and Extension knowledge to the people we serve. We will maintain high quality educational programs and continuously adapt to changing times and landscapes.

Our goals include finding answers and encouraging application of science and technology to improve agricultural, economic, and social conditions; encouraging healthy lifestyles, preparing youth for responsible adulthood, and providing rapid response regarding disasters and emergencies. As Extension educators, we will use modern technology to disseminate knowledge and tools but also rely on traditional human values and relationships to gain the attention and trust of the people we serve.

We will make a difference by connecting our communities needs and K-State resources to address critical issues in our district and beyond.



In the coming months, our "Making a Difference" reports will focus on individual agents and the difference they make with their clients.

## The Extension Workers Creed

I Believe in people and their hopes, their aspirations, and their faith; in their right to make their own plans and arrive at their own decisions; in their ability and power to enlarge their lives and plan for the happiness of those they love.

I Believe that education, of which Extension is an essential part, is basic in stimulating individual initiative, self-determination, and leadership; that these are the keys to democracy and that people when given facts they understand, will act not only in their self-interest, but also in the interest of society.

I Believe that education is a lifelong process and the greatest university is the home; that my success as a teacher is proportional to those qualities of mind and spirit that give me welcome entrance to the homes of the families I serve.

I Believe in intellectual freedom to search for and present the truth without bias and with courteous tolerance toward the views of others.

I Believe that Extension is a link between the people and the ever-changing discoveries in the laboratories.

I Believe in the public institutions of which I am a part.

I Believe in my own work and in the opportunity I have to make my life useful to humanity.

Because I Believe these things, I am an Extension professional.

## KSRE and Agriculture

Agriculture is the largest employer in Kansas and contributes almost 40 percent of the state's gross regional product. Farmers and agribusinesses exported \$4.8 billion worth of goods in 2018. For almost 130 years, K-State Research and Extension has helped fuel the state's agricultural production. Innovations discovered at Kansas State University have led to greatly improved crop, fruit, and vegetable varieties; livestock traits and handling systems; and pest control.

### Livestock Signature Program - Chris Petty

One of the big pushes (signature program) in livestock extension at Kansas State University right now is for forage testing. For years, extension agents have been good at teaching the value of soil testing, which gives farmers a snapshot of the fertility of their farm fields and pastures. We can do the essentially the same thing with hay, silage, and grain-based livestock feeds. By submitting feed samples to a laboratory for analysis, we can give farmers and ranchers a nutrient analysis of their feed resources, which is similar to the nutritional analysis available on a food label you would find on boxed and canned food items at the grocery store.

With a soil sample, a farmer can get soil fertility recommendations, which can then be taken to their local coop or fertilizer dealer, and used to purchase fertilizer for the upcoming years crop or pasture. With nutrient analysis results from hay or other feed types, we can utilize the BRaNDS ration analysis software to create what could be considered a diet plan for cattle. The BRaNDS software utilizes the updated 1996 Nutrient Requirements of Beef Cattle from the National Research Council and incorporates metabolizable protein and net energy system; body condition scoring adjustments; implant and feed additive adjustments; and local weather adjustments. If a farmer or rancher wants to grow heifers or put weight on calves, or just wants to know if their hay is suitable to get their cattle through the winter, we can help make those determinations. We can also provide recommendations on other feed types like supplemental alfalfa hay or distillers grains, that might be needed to help meet a cow herds nutritional needs.



Chris recently double-checked all the soil and forage testing equipment in all 4 Southwind Extension District offices, and updated equipment as needed. This equipment can be checked out at your local Extension office for the purpose of soil testing or nutrient analyses. The winter months are a good time to do both, and you local agriculture extension agent's can help explain the process in greater detail if needed, and can help explain test results.

### Making a Difference: Solving Problems

Chris recently had a farmer come into the Extension office concerned that his soil test recommendations were not correct. He looked at his soils sample numbers and explained the graphical readout that the KSU soil testing lab returns with the test results. After Chris' explanation, the farmer still didn't think the numbers looked right. Upon visiting with him further, it turns out that farmer was expecting to produce wheat yields considerably above the state average. We were able to contact the Kansas State University Soil Testing Lab, and have his soil sample result recommendations reformulated for much higher yields. In this case, a face to face visit with the farmer allowed Chris to get results he was comfortable with, based on above average yield goals.

A new landowner bought a parcel of property with a high infestation of broomsedge brome (poverty grass). This is a sign of low fertility, and generally indicative of low soil phosphorus levels. However, the landowner's soil test came back showing high phosphorus levels. Chris visited the landowner on his property, to try to unravel this mystery. During the course of their discussion it was determined that one core of soil was taken in the proximity of an old barnyard, where hogs had once been raised. Hog manure is high in phosphorus. We re-tested the parcel of land, excluding the old farmstead and barnyard area, and got new soil test results consistent with amount of broomsedge brome (poverty grass) on the property. From the new test results, the landowner was able to properly fertilize his land.



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