PRIDE Subject at USDA Meeting

PRIDE discussion included: How to initiate PRIDE in communities; assistance given (PRIDE) communities by USDA personnel; sponsorship of a PRIDE program by a county USDA committee; and PRIDE procedures.

Communities enrolled in PRIDE in Region 10 this year are: Burr Oak, Mankato, Beloit, Courtland, and Concordia.

All counties in the region were represented at the United States Department of Agriculture Region 10 resource committee meeting in Beloit. Each representative gave a county activity report and a progress report on the 1976 county plan of work goals.

Kansas Department of Economic Development
503 Kansas
Topeka, KS 66603

MUCH COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

GLENDA JAHNKE, holding PRIDE bulletin, met with the LaCrosse Steering Committee to tell of her experiences as chairperson of the Holston PRIDE Committee. Other resource persons giving assistance were from left to right: E. J. Sisk, Area Extension Specialist, Terry Schenthaler, former County Extension Director, and Mary Swisher, County Extension Home Economist. Judy Kyle, sixth from right, was elected chairperson.

The steering committee conducted a survey and received responses from 425 residences. After obtaining project goals from 21 other groups in the community, a priority committee of eight persons was appointed to study the results of surveys and present projects and suggest additional community projects. After adopting twenty projects, the steering committee appointed task force members and chairpersons.
MARY TUCKER, EXTENSION HOUSING SPECIALIST, met with Westmoreland's PRIDE Housing Committee to plan for more owner and rental units. Mary is an evaluator for the PRIDE blue ribbon recognition program and has met with several PRIDE committees to help develop, plan, and implement housing efforts.

Kansas communities that have met State PRIDE Committee standards for adequate dwellings since 1971 are: Arkansas City, Belleville, Chanute, Clifton, Colwich, Hesston, Hillsboro, Horton, Mundoza, McPherson, Holton, Norton, Oberlin, Russell, Ulysses, and Wakefield.

A form is available from Kansas State University and Kansas Department of Economic Development to communities to assist them in appraising and planning housing.

SPEARVILLE YOUTH ACTIVE

A random sampling of high school students representing all of next year's upper grades met to formulate plans for a Youth PRIDE Committee.

The group reviewed surveys taken in the high school and junior high during the last weeks of the semester. They then planned initial activities that will make Spearville one of the first towns in the state to have a committee of young people sponsored by the adult PRIDE group set up to work especially on problems of interest to those still in school.

Results of the survey were presented at a community-wide public meeting at the Spearville city park. The public was invited to an explanation of the new committee and invited to make additional suggestions and comments about what they would like to see the committee accomplish. The survey was reviewed and permanent officers voted upon.

Following the public meeting, the Youth Steering Committee decided to have an old-time basket picnic with proceeds from the auction of fancy decorated box suppers to go toward funding future projects. The picnic was for everyone in the community.

The committee also voted to hold a Saturday afternoon movie for the youngsters of Spearville. The movie "Melody Time" was a full length color cartoon presentation. The Spearville Knights of Columbus co-sponsored the program by providing the building for the afternoon.

Young people served as the Steering Committee, but meetings were open to all students in the community. As with the adult PRIDE Committee, these youngsters asked help from their classmates and contacted adults in the community when further help or sponsorship was necessary.

KANSAS PRIDE COMMITTEE

Chairman - Lou Atherton, Kansas City Power and Light.
Vice-Chairman - Dr. John Dunning, Director, Cooperative Extension Service, K.S.U.
Vice-Chairman - Edward Bruske, Kansas Department of Economic Development.
Treasurer - Evelyn Flaks, Kansas Federated Business and Professional Women's Clubs.

Local Pride Activities

FRED DIELH, MCPHERSON MAYOR, has been active in the PRIDE Program. McPherson was designated the third Kansas PRIDE Pacemaker city and won the Annual Sunflower Sweepstakes award in 1975.

Fred is retired and former general manager of the Board of Public Utilities. He attended the University of North Dakota.

Why involved in PRIDE? "I was an interested citizen."

As you see it, what is the main benefit of PRIDE? "It is a means of awakening citizens to some of the needs of the community."

What was your most satisfying PRIDE experience? "City commissioners and city getting help from PRIDE chairman (Vicki Schmidt) and PRIDE Steering Committee and making commissioners aware of the needs of the city. Much of this was through the community survey."

As you see it, what makes PRIDE work? "The chairperson of the PRIDE Steering Committee and the Steering Committee."

Staff Contacts
Les Frazier, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, Phone - 913-532-8840.
Byron Wood, Kansas Department of Economic Development, Topeka, Kansas, Phone - 913-296-3460.

SABETHA - (Hilma Ackerman, Secretary) "The Sabetha PRIDE committee held a meeting on August 9 to elect officers and give awards for 1976. It has been a good year. The highlight of the year was PRIDE Swimming Pool Committee's work and study of a swimming pool for Sabetha. They worked with school and city to finalize plans and brought the project to a vote at the April 3 election. The voters had two choices: an open pool at the cost of $213,374, or an enclosed pool at a cost of $274,574. The voters of Sabetha voted in favor of the enclosed pool, which will also be used by the school district in winter time. They will work out a financial arrangement with the city for its use. Needless to say, Sabetha's PRIDE Steering Committee is PROUD of this accomplishment, and those of the many other committees. Did something awards were presented at the August 9 meeting to the outstanding PRIDE committees, the Sabetha Bicentennial Committee, History Book Committee, FAF as outstanding club of the year, the Sabetha Herald, and others."