

Vibrant communities with a positive future

Welcome Dover!



Our newest Kansas PRIDE community is Dover, Kansas an unincorporated community in Shawnee County. So, why would such a place be interested in PRIDE and how could they organize without a City Commission?

First, a group of diversified volunteers in Dover was interested in improving the playground of a former school yard so community

members could remain in their community during after work hours for recreation and social interaction. This group of passionate volunteers had a specific idea and was challenged identifying a process to move forward. Then, a member of K-State Research and Extension-Shawnee County Community Development Program Development committee stepped forward and suggested that Dover explore the PRIDE program. That led to a community meeting attended by Dover volunteers, K-State Research and Extension-Shawnee County Director, and a group from Rossville PRIDE. The Rossville PRIDE representatives shared what PRIDE had meant to their community and how taking a comprehensive planning approach to community improvements creates “buy in” from all community members as well as good supportive data for grant applications to fund the improvements. Everyone was enthusiastic and filled out the PRIDE enrollment that night on line! Then, the question came up that without a city council who should sign the supporting resolution?

The options presented were the township or the County Commission. The resolution was presented to the Shawnee County Commission and they were eager to learn more about the PRIDE program as well as offer their support of the initiative by approving the resolution.

Dover has already started to create awareness of Dover PRIDE and to gain community input through community assessment survey that was developed by the PRIDE group with assistance from K-State Research and Extension-Shawnee County. This survey was distributed to attendees at Dover Heritage Days to insure a broad participation. And, to encourage people to fill out the survey Dover PRIDE not only had a booth they posted signs throughout the facilities, including the bathroom! Results are now being compiled. Welcome Dover PRIDE!



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Want others to be informed? Contact PRIDE@ksu.edu and supply their email, and we will add them to our newsletter list!

Kansas Health Foundation: Recognition Grants Program

During the past few years, the Kansas Health Foundation has been thrilled to partner with K-State Research and Extension on the Kansas Community Gardens project. Many Kansas PRIDE communities have received these grants. In addition to the Community Garden grants the Kansas Health Foundation has another opportunity of interest to Kansas communities.

At two different points each year, the Foundation has an open application opportunity called our Recognition Grants program. These grants are up to a maximum of \$25,000 each, and are open to nonprofit organizations, schools, churches or municipalities proposing a health-related (very broad) project. It is a competitive process, but they award up to \$2 million per year (spread over the two cycles) so there are a large number of grants awarded. Complete details about the program and application process, as well as an opportunity to register for an informational webinar hosted by KHF staff, is available at <http://www.kansashealth.org/grantmaking/recognitiongrants>.

Meet the Kansas State University Research and Extension PRIDE Staff

Last month Dan Kahl, former coordinator of the Kansas PRIDE program for K-State Research and Extension shared that he has accepted a new position at Kansas State University and while not working directly with Kansas PRIDE in the future, he will be able to offer new connections between Kansas communities and faculty and staff at Kansas State University to address local issues.

Currently, the support for Kansas PRIDE from Kansas State University Research and Extension include two staff positions.

Trudy Rice, K-State Research and Extension Associate Specialist Community Development/PRIDE Program coordinator

Trudy is now serving as the coordinator of the Kansas PRIDE program for K-State Research and Extension. She is responsible for promoting the Kansas PRIDE program, educational and technical assistance to all Kansas PRIDE communities, the Community of Excellence program, the Partners in PRIDE program, as well as coordination with the Kansas PRIDE, Inc. Board of Directors.

Contact: trice@ksu.edu 785 766 3996

Jaime Menon, Administrative Specialist K-State Research and Extension Community Development/PRIDE

Jaime is your first point of contact when you call the Kansas PRIDE office. Jaime is responsible for coordinating the enrollment and reporting process for Kansas PRIDE. In addition to this she serves as “communication central” by publishing the e-news monthly, posting to facebook, and preparing the annual review. Jaime is the secretary for Kansas PRIDE, Inc. and also is responsible for the organizations financial record keeping.

Contact: jmenon@ksu.edu 785 532 5840

Feel free to contact Jaime or Trudy with your PRIDE questions, needs, or comments at any time. We are here to serve you as a Kansas PRIDE community. However, please remember that your local connections to the Kansas PRIDE program include the local unit K-State Research and Extension Office ksre.ksu.edu or the Kansas Department of Commerce RPM which are highlighted in each newsletter.



Regional Project Manager Highlight: Carol Meyer

Carol Meyer is a Rural Project Manager for the 26 counties in southwest Kansas. She's in the region as a connector for expertise, programs and resources that might assist economic development directors, governing bodies and community volunteers as they work on stabilizing and growing their communities, finding resources to help fund needed community projects, and helping businesses start-up and expand. Although born in Wisconsin, she has chosen Kansas as her home for the past 36 years. Her background includes more than 34 years of successful work in Economic Development and Chambers of Commerce, with additional experience and training in leadership development, volunteer non-profit boards and regional cooperation.

For more information on Rural Opportunity Zones, visit: kansascommerce.com

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KSRE PRIDE Partner Award

The Kansas PRIDE program is seeking your nominations for the 2013 Extension PRIDE Partner Award! The Extension PRIDE Partner Award recognizes an individual from KSRE who has provided exceptional support to PRIDE communities, or in support of the PRIDE program at the state level.

If you have worked with an Extension professional that you would like to recognize for their support, or who has shown exceptional leadership or service to your PRIDE community work, please take a moment to nominate them. The form can be found at the PRIDE website at: www.kansasprideprogram.ksu.edu/PRIDE/prideforms

What Do Young People Need to Stay in Rural America?

A recent article in BEEF, the nation's leading cattle publication, gave a great summary of what young people need to stay in rural America.

The Three Things:

1. Improved Internet service in rural America.

Access to the Internet is one of the most necessary elements to help a small community compete and thrive. Whether it enables students to take an online class remotely from a university located miles away, or allows a conversation with a specialist for more acute health care needs, a proper Internet connection is needed to bring these opportunities to rural America.

2. Support local businesses.

Sure, small-town grocery stores are probably a bit more expensive than Walmart, but it's critical that small-town shoppers support their local businesses. Instead of stocking up at a big retailer when you're in the city, or buying everything online, shop in the little boutiques that pepper main street. Spend money within your community to keep those little stores and shops alive.

3. Encourage young people.

If you're seeing more and more young people leave your small community, then perhaps it's time to take the initiative and encourage these folks to stay. Perhaps they aren't aware of the opportunities in small towns, or fearful that their businesses can't thrive in a small community. Support the next generation. Whether they're small merchants, tradesmen, lawyers or farmers, these young people can add huge benefits to small communities. Encourage them to stay, and be sure to support them once they do.

What do you think? Do you agree with these three things?

Events Calendar

August 15, 2013—PIP and GIDI Applications Due

September 15, 2013— Kansas Health Foundation Grants Due

October 15, 2013—Community of Excellence Applications Due

October 15, 2013—Community Resource Grant Deadline

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