**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- Extension Agents Making a Difference
- Updates and Learning through Webinars
- Community Visits – Hello Lakin!
- Funding Opportunity: VIP
- Food Access Issues? Meet KHFI
- Events Calendar

**Extension Agents Making a Difference**

![Figure 1: Featured from left to right: Dr. John Floros, Director of Extension, Mr. John Forshee, River Valley District Director, and our very own Jan Steen, Co-Coordinator of the Kansas PRIDE Program](image)

On November 2, 2017, Jan and I honored Mr. John Forshee, River Valley District Director at the K-State Research and Extension Annual Conference for his work supporting the PRIDE Communities in his District: Belleville, Glasco and Wakefield.

To focus on one community, Belleville, John was instrumental in assisting Belleville in the First Impressions Program, which lead to improvements in signage and beautification. John helped to bring the Kansas Forest Service to the community to evaluate opportunities for trees to be planted near the fairgrounds to get a head start on beautification for Belleville’s Sesquicentennial in 2019. Finally, John encouraged Belleville to check into the Kansas PRIDE Program to promote work by the committees identified by First Impressions, to help bring their vision of Belleville forward. Congratulations John!

Do you have an agent that goes above and beyond for your community? Email us at PRIDE@ksu.edu or Facebook Messenger so we can highlight their work! – Jaime Menon, Kansas PRIDE Co-Coordinator, K-State Research and Extension jmenon@ksu.edu

**Updates and Learning Through Webinars**

While we all prefer a face to face format for learning, we sometimes have to come to terms that it may not be economical. The results from our recent survey support our thoughts that it is time for alternative learning formats.
While not all learning will take place online as we will have some regional opportunities, the bulk of education starting next year will take place via webinar, or Zoom through K-State Research and Extension.

Most of our learning will be online, which means:

- There are greater opportunities to participate without travel costs or host site fees
- There are greater opportunities to interact with experts and get information for follow-ups or questions
- You will be able to expand your network by interacting with community experts and other community participants online

You will find these opportunities coming up through Constant Contact, through the Newsletter, and through our Community Opportunities emails. You may be asked to register, which will be at no cost, and will be used for follow up emails and participant number reporting.

We are so excited to add this format to our ways of serving you! I cannot wait to see how much we learn from one another! Thank you for all that you do!

— Jaime Menon, Kansas PRIDE Co-Coordinator, K-State Research and Extension jmennon@ksu.edu

Hello Lakin!

Recently, Faith Orth, Community Vitality Extension Agent from nearby Hamilton County, and I had the opportunity to visit with Erika from Lakin PRIDE, and Bill Haney, Kearny County Agriculture Extension Agent.

Thank you, Erika, for the tour to see the community and the projects Lakin PRIDE is involved in, and thank you Bill for taking the time to talk to us as well! There are a lot of great things going on there, and the parks are amazing!

You can learn more about Lakin PRIDE’s projects and upcoming events by visiting their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/LakinPRIDE/

- Jan Steen, Kansas PRIDE Co-Coordinator, K-State Research and Extension jmsteen@ksu.edu
Funding Opportunity: Volunteers Impact PRIDE Grant “New and Improved”

This is a repeat article from October, but the information is still relevant for updating purposes, so here goes:

Last year, the Kansas PRIDE Program created a new grant opportunity: The Volunteers Impact PRIDE Grant or VIP. This opportunity was open to all PRIDE communities, Communities of Growth, Communities of Action and Communities of Excellence. The opportunity has been reviewed and the Kansas PRIDE Program now offers this grant opportunity to Communities of Excellence only, that are in good standing.

The deadline for submission will be February 15, 2018. The application can be found here:

http://kansasprideprogram.k-state.edu/opportunities/funding/VIP.html

Or CLICK HERE to access the page.

If you are a Community of Excellence, in good standing you may wish to bookmark it if your community is interested in applying or contact us at PRIDE@ksu.edu if you have questions.

— Jaime Menon, Kansas PRIDE Co-Coordinator, K-State Research and Extension jmenon@ksu.edu

Food Access Issues? Meet KHFI

Every Kansan should have access to healthy, affordable food within a reasonable distance from their home. Unfortunately, not all Kansans can say they have a grocery store, farmer’s market, or mobile market in their area. That’s where the Kansas Healthy Food Initiative comes in (KHFI).

The Kansas Health Foundation has provided $4.2 million for healthy food projects and investors to leverage funds to sustain or create food access points in areas of great need through the KHFI. Approved efforts could include, but aren’t limited to, the development or renovation of a grocery store, improving food distribution to rural grocers, or innovative access to food in food deserts.

For more information on the Kansas Healthy Food Initiative, including a guidebook, application, and contact information, visit:

http://kansashealthyfood.org/

- Jan Steen, Kansas PRIDE Co-Coordinator, K-State Research and Extension jmsteen@ksu.edu
Up for a Community Visit?

Would your PRIDE organization like to be brought up to speed on available opportunities? Have you had a leadership change and would like to make sure you’re on the right track? Let us know and we’ll work on scheduling a time to meet with you. Send us an email at PRIDE@ksu.edu. – Jan Steen, Kansas PRIDE Co-Coordinator, K-State Research and Extension jmsteen@ksu.edu

Events Calendar

Quarterly Report Dates:
April 15th
July 15th
October 15th
January 15

Opportunity Dates:
February 15, 2018 – Award Applications Due
August 15, 2018 – Award Applications Due