

Coyote Control



The coyote is a member of the canine (dog) family. This intelligent mammal is at home in rangeland, cropland, mixed woodlands, or even suburban areas. Coyotes stay in one area in spring and summer, but may roam in late summer, fall, and winter. Most coyotes are territorial but do not become dominant and establish a home territory. They are opportunists that kill and eat whatever is easiest to obtain. This often includes young, sick or weak livestock.

In Kansas, coyotes can be trapped year-round to control livestock predation. Techniques for trapping coyotes in response for livestock damage are similar to those used for fur trapping. A successful trapper will have a good understanding of coyote biology and behavior.

The Southwind Extension District is assisting landowners and hunters in becoming successful. During the winter of 2014 the Southwind Extension District hosted a capacity crowd of approximately 65 individuals, for a coyote meeting featuring Kansas State University Wildlife Specialist Charles Lee. Due to the overwhelming success of the meeting, and many request for the information that was provided, an additional meeting was held in 2015. This meeting was held at the new Southeast Area Extension Center in Parsons, Kansas and was hosted jointly between the Southwind Extension District and the Wildcat Extension District. Once again, pre-registered attendees put this meeting at capacity for the 125 seat meeting room. Based on the overwhelming success of these two meetings, another meeting will be planned for the winter of 2016. Approximately half of the attendees indicated that this program was their first exposure to extension programming.

Master Gardener Training

There were a number of Master Gardener volunteer service projects that happened in Southwind Extension District communities in 2015. This year, 866 hours of volunteer service were completed. According to most recent data from the Independent Sector (a coalition of charities, foundations, corporations, and individuals that publishes research important to the nonprofit sector), the estimated value of volunteer time is \$23.07 per hour. That calculates close to \$20,000 worth of service to our local communities! Projects were completed in Humboldt, Iola, Moran, Chanute and Fort Scott.

Fifteen individuals completed the Master Gardener training course held in Fort Scott during the fall of 2015. Master Gardener training is an in-depth course covering everything from soils to insects and vegetables to shrub care. In order to become certified Master Gardeners, participants must devote 40 hours of volunteer service to their communities next year.

Tomato Variety Research Trials - Southwind Extension Master Gardeners conducted research trials on 9 varieties of tomatoes in the Fort Scott Community Garden. The gardeners observed and recorded plant and fruit characteristics of each variety. The varieties were rated throughout the growing season on plant vigor, disease resistance, fruit yield, uniformity and cracking. In addition, the Master Gardeners conducted a taste testing event at the Fort Scott Farmer's Market. Market goers were able to sample and rate each variety. The trial data is compiled, submitted to Kansas State University and ultimately shared with seed companies.



Aging with Attitude Regional Expo

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that nearly 25% of Kansas's population will be over age 60 by the year 2030, an increase of 32% from 2012. The population of the nation and of the state will grow older as the Baby Boomer generation moves into later life. As older adults are more likely to experience disability and chronic diseases, this demographic shift will have significant consequences in terms of health and wellness of the population. The Aging with Attitude Regional Expo is planned and hosted by K-State Extension family and consumer science professionals and key community partners. The annual event includes 10 educational sessions and 32 resource exhibits. The Expo supports on-going local program priorities focused on health and community vitality. Over 165 people from twelve southeast Kansas counties attended in 2015.

The impact after 4 months:

92% indicated they have a better understanding of aging issues today as a result of their attendance.

62% indicated they had taken action or changed something in their life.

14% indicated they had made contact with a vendor following the Expo resource fair.

Six individuals indicated they have increased the amount of physical exercise they are doing since the Expo.

Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas

Health insurance choices affect all Kansans. Every day 10,000 baby boomers turn 65. Many do not understand health insurance or Medicare. Insufficient or inaccurate information can lead to late enrollment penalties, gaps in coverage, strained finances and delayed healthcare treatment. For all Kansans age 65 and older, making sound financial decisions related to health insurance can alleviate stress. It can also free up income to meet other goals, improve health outcomes and support community vitality when that money stays in the local area.

During the 2015 Open Enrollment period, Extension Agent Joy Purkeypile educated people through the process of Medicare plan comparisons and explanations of benefits covered. Over half of participants changed prescription drug plans to better meet their needs. The 2015 open enrollment in Southwind District resulted in a total savings of \$42,804. People saved between \$88-\$9,023 per year by having a plan comparison completed and enrolling in to a new plan.

At the end of counseling sessions, people reported an increase in their understanding of terms associated with insurance, factors to consider when choosing a health plan, how level of coverage and size of deductible affect the premiums paid and where to look for other resources in their communities.

4-H Leadership Weekend

In November, Southwind Extension District 4-H youth and volunteers attended the Kansas 4-H Leadership Weekend held at Rock Springs 4-H Center near Junction City, Kansas. The Kansas 4-H Leadership Weekend includes activities for both youth and adults, the Kansas 4-H Volunteers Forum and the Kansas Youth Leadership Forum. Out of over 250 people present from across the State, there were 10 delegates, 1 Youth Council Member, and 2 volunteers representing the Southwind Extension District. The theme for the 2015 4-H Leadership Weekend was "Think BIG". Youth and volunteers built their leadership skills and potential through workshops, consulting groups and inspirational speakers. As well as, help elect the 2016 State Youth Council Members. This year, the keynote speaker was Brandon Lee White, a former ballroom dance instructor. He encouraged youth to be confident in who they are and own the moment. With his capnote presentation, Mr. White demonstrated leadership through ballroom dancing.

Each youth and volunteer who attends is provided with a wealth of leadership information to take back to their communities and themed t-shirt. The Kansas 4-H Leadership Weekend is open to any youth 14-18 years of age and do not have to be 4-H'ers to attend. And the Kansas 4-H Volunteer Forum is open to any 4-H over 18 years of age. For more information about State 4-H Events, contact Jennifer K. Murphy, District 4-H Youth Development Agent

Southwind Extension District

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