



Agents Receive Tenure Awards



Carla Nemecek, Director, 20 years with K-State Research & Extension. Nemecek earned her BS and MS degrees in Animal Science from Kansas State University and began her Extension career as the Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent for Haskell County, KS in 1997. She remained there until 2005 when she transferred to Allen County in the same role. The Southwind District was formed in 2010 and at that time she became District Director. Currently, the Southwind District consists of Allen, Bourbon and Neosho Counties and in 2018 they will add Woodson County. She has served as President of the Kansas Association of County Agriculture Agents (2009-2010) and received her Achievement Award from the National Association of County Agriculture Agents in 2005. During her Extension career she has proudly coached 4 State Champion 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes Teams. Nemecek has been married for 20 years to Jeff and they have 2 boys, Brody (15) and Kyser (11). They are an active 4-H family in Allen County, KS and enjoy raising cattle and hogs.



Christopher Petty, Livestock Production and Forage Management, 10 years with K-State Research & Extension. Petty earned his BS in Animal Science from Kansas State University and then began Extension employment in Graham County, KS. In that role he was focused on agriculture, horticulture, natural resources, community development and 4-H. After 6 years in Western Kansas he transferred to the Southwind Extension District to fulfill his current role with livestock producers. He recently accomplished a long-time goal of completing a Master's Degree in Adult Learning and Leadership from K-State. He has served as Secretary/Treasurer of the Kansas Agriculture Agents Association and is currently the Communications Award Chair. He is a member of the Alpha Rho chapter of extension Epsilon Sigma Phi and was the 2017 Diversity Award winner. His wife Bree and he have 3 children, Garrett (9), Allison (15), and Mason (17). Petty is an avid BBQ enthusiast and enjoys judging KC BBQ sanctioned events.



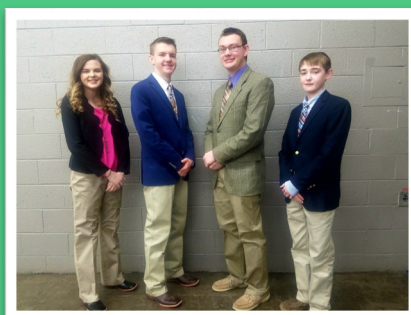
Joy Miller, Adult Development & Aging and Family Resource Management, 10 years K-State Research & Extension. Miller earned her BS in Dietetics from the University of Nebraska-Kearney and began her Extension career as the Family and Consumer Science Extension Agent for Linn County, KS in 2007. In that role she focused on nutrition and wellness, SNAP-Ed, and 4-H. After 6 years, she transferred to the Southwind Extension District, an opportunity to serve the community in which she lives. Miller is a member of the Kansas Extension Family and Consumer Science Extension Association. In 2017, as part of the K-State Research & Extension Aging with Attitude team, she received the National Team Collaboration Award and also presented at the National Extension Association Family and Consumer Science Conference. She is also the Family Resource Management Program Focus Team Co-Chair. Miller is married to David, and together they have 4 boys, Josh (33), Matthew (31), Corey (29), and Seth (15). She enjoys spending her free time at the lake house with family and friends.

Reliable Horticulture Information

With a world of information at our fingertips, it is certainly easy to attempt to troubleshoot any type of problem with just a click of a mouse. However, the information that is found might not be relevant or reliable. When dealing with plant concerns, the “click” doesn’t take into consideration location, weather, or other variable factors. Whether a person has a question about lawns, gardens, flowers or trees, the information and expertise provided by the Southwind District is available to all residents and tailored to our area. During the busy growing season, the District Horticulture Agent assists many residents with plant questions through phone calls and walk-in office visits. Home visits are also made to provide in-person problem diagnosis and general growing advice. A variety of gardening and lawn care workshops and events are also offered throughout the year to help gardening enthusiasts improve their green thumb. In addition, a horticulture newsletter is published monthly that provides timely tips and information. Southwind Extension District is the go-to source for reliable, research based horticulture information.

Southwind 4-H Livestock Teams Compete for National Titles

The Southwind Extension District 4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl and Livestock Judging Teams recently traveled to National Contests in Phoenix, AZ and Denver, CO to represent Kansas 4-H in three national contests. They earned these opportunities by placing 3rd and 2nd, respectively, at the Kansas State 4-H Livestock Contests during the summer of 2017.



Between Christmas and New Years, four Southwind District 4-H members competed in Phoenix, AZ in two contests. The Livestock Skillathon team bested 25 other teams from across the Midwest to earn the title of Champion Team at the Arizona National Livestock Show. Individually, Haydon Schaaf was named High Individual Overall, followed closely by his teammates who were 2nd (Clay Brillhart), 3rd (Brody Nemecek) and 7th (Jillian Keller) individuals out of 112 students. These same youth competed in the Livestock Judging Contest on New Years Eve and repeated their success by winning another Championship. Out of 28 teams and 129 individuals, Jillian Keller was recognized as High Individual Overall and Brody Nemecek was 4th High Individual.



In early January 2018, 4 different members of the Southwind District 4-H Livestock Judging teams traveled to Denver, CO to compete in the 4-H contest at the National Western Stock Show. Kolby Seested was 2nd in Swine, 1st in Cattle, 5th in Reasons and High Individual Overall, and earned a \$1000 scholarship to Colorado State University. Danielle Nading was 2nd in Sheep, 10th in Reasons, and 5th High Individual Overall. The team was 6th in Sheep, 2nd in Swine, 3rd in Beef, 4th in Reasons, and 3rd High Team Overall. John Emmerson, a former teammate helped prepare the team for the contest by serving as Assistant Coach.

Both teams are coached by Southwind Extension District Agent, Carla Nemecek.

4-H Officer Training Teaches Leadership Skills

In October, over 100 Southwind District 4-H youth, parents, and volunteers attended the 2017 District Officer’s Training at the Erie High School in Erie. To start the training, youth were asked to find a partner and form a large circle in the auditorium. They were then provided with directions for a walking and talking activity. The purpose of the activity was for youth to learn about others and become comfortable with proper introductions. Following the introductory activity, youth were then split by office to learn from a guest speaker important tips and suggestions for successfully performing the tasks related to their specific office. While in the breakout sessions, club leaders were provided information on ways to make meetings purposeful to youth and club leader succession plans. Officer Training ensures youth are confident in their ability to help lead their local 4-H clubs in the new 4-H year.



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