Spring 2016

Frontier Extension District # 11

Making Rain Barrels
Frontier Extension District residents learned how to build a cost-effective rain barrel for their home while attending Making Rain Barrel classes. Due to significant early interest, class sizes were expanded over advertised limits. A total of 50 individuals attended the three workshops, with 10 in Lyndon, 21 in Ottawa, and 19 participants in Garnett. During the hands-on workshop, each attendee constructed their own rain barrel and learned about installation methods. To emphasize the reason for overflow management, participants calculated the amount of water that could be collected from an average size roof in a quarter-inch rain event. Mosquito prevention and winter care for rain barrels were also discussed at the three workshops.

Veterinary Feed Directive
Dr. Mike Apley, KSU Professor of Production Medicine, discussed the effects of Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) to 80 livestock producers in the district. Speaking at meetings in two locations, Dr. Apley defined a “VFD drug” as a drug intended for use in or on animal feed that is limited to use under the professional supervision of a licensed veterinarian. He explained that a veterinarian must provide a signed statement to authorize a livestock owner to obtain and use a VFD drug. The VFD order must be kept for two years. Livestock owners are responsible for making sure the VFD feed is fed only to those animals on the VFD statement, and must provide a copy of the statement to the feed distributor for feed preparation.

Soybean School
Soybean producers from across east central Kansas gathered in Overbrook to hear the latest in soybean research. Just over 80 producers attended the daylong session. Topics included soybean risk management, high yield strategies, nutrient and soil fertility, disease and insect management, and big data usage. Soybeans account for just over 230,000 acres in the Frontier Extension District.

Calling All Coyotes
The Frontier Extension District identified a new audience when they hosted a meeting on coyotes. Of the 90 individuals that attended the meeting, only 15-20 attendees had previously ever attended an Extension hosted meeting. Charlie Lee, KSU Wildlife Damage Control Specialist, discussed the biology and behavior of the coyote to an audience that included farmers, ranchers, hunters, trappers, and photographers. Lee also discussed research on coyote travel habits, food sources, as well as calling and trapping, the topic of most interest.
Community Board Leadership Series
Studies have indicated that building community leadership capacity is critical to community viability and sustainability. In the Frontier Extension District, 20 community board members representing eight county, city, and local organizations, attended a series of four classes to learn the basics of being a good board member. The training sessions were conducted through a “high tech/high touch” approach, with fourteen sites in Kansas hosting classes simultaneously. Each host site was facilitated by local extension staff. Topics discussed included roles and responsibilities of board members; understanding fellow board members and conflict resolution; fundraising and fiscal responsibilities; and strategic planning.

4-H Helps Perfect Public Speaking
Kansas 4-H members have been learning to speak skillfully before an audience for more than 100 years. This year was no different. At the annual Frontier Extension District 4-H Club Day, 115 4-H members representing the district’s three counties participated in a variety of speaking events. Event areas of the competition included Public Speaking, Demonstrations, Project Talks, Impromptu Speeches, Oral Interpretation, Historical Speech, and Multi-media Presentations. Over 60 district 4-H members earned the right to advance to the next level of competition. Practicing public speaking skills helps 4-Hers learn to present and communicate an idea in front of large groups—a skill that will last a lifetime.

Extension Agents Work With Community Coalitions
Schools in the Frontier Extension District shared the same spring break this year, allowing for a district-wide plan to execute several spring break activities for youth. Extension Agents working with the Franklin County Children’s Coalition, Osage County Interagency Coalition, and Anderson County Family Coalition, helped plan, organize, and teach classes. Extension agents presented classes to 35 youth perfect culinary skills by making strawberry jam and whole wheat bread. Nearly 30 youth participated in babysitting clinics to learn more about caring for younger children and keeping them safe. Approximately 70 youth participated in a free skating party, and 36 youth rode a free bus paid for by community businesses.

Burn School
Over 40 producers attended a day-long school in the Frontier Extension District to hear speakers discuss objectives of and reasons for doing a prescribed burn. Burning can affect cattle gains, cattle grazing patterns, and weed and brush control. It can be used to improve Conservation Reserve Program stands, reduce the chance of wildfires, and can improve wildlife habitat. Producers in attendance received a bound book containing basic information for planning a safe and effective burn. They also learned about regulations, as well as considerations for populations that may be affected by the smoke from their fires. One producer that had attended other burn schools commented “this school had some of the best speakers on the subject of burning of any of the meetings I have ever attended. I try to learn something new each day and today I did.” Event speakers were from Kansas State University, National Weather Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Wildlife and Parks, and local Emergency Management.