

Sedgwick County Extension Council

PDC Elections
Voting Guide

Oct. 13, 2026



KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension
Sedgwick County

Who We Are and What We Do

K-State Extension in Sedgwick County is a county-wide public education network that takes unbiased, research-based education and recommendations from Kansas State University and extends that knowledge to solve real problems in Sedgwick County. From helping people grow food and manage finances to developing youth and strengthening communities, our work turns public investment into measurable impact.

Help us to elect our next group of Program Development Committee (PDC) members who work to identify educational resources and programming to address local needs.

What does a PDC member do?

Purpose: PDC members work together with K-State Extension agents to develop local programming.

Responsibilities: Working with agents, PDC members understand and promote the mission of K-State Extension and serve their communities by completing the following tasks:

- Assess needs and issues of agricultural producers, communities, families, and youth.
- Identify new local audiences and develop a proactive plan to expand the scope of extension programming.
- Use K-State Extension resources to meet local programming needs.
- Develop program action plans to address community needs and submit those plans to the extension board and area director for review and approval.
- Implement, participate in, and evaluate extension programs.
- Promote K-State Extension program successes and impacts.

Qualifications:

- At least 18 years old and a resident of the county in which the PDC is represented.
- Interested in working within the philosophy and mission of K-State Extension.
- Willing to work closely with the local extension agent and other members of the PDC.
- Sincere interest in improving the quality of life for community residents.

Time Required: A PDC member serves a two-year term and is expected to participate in PDC meetings scheduled throughout the year.

2026 PDC Candidates



4-H Youth Development



Peggy Brant

I was raised in Norwich, KS, and graduated from Norwich High School in 1973. I then attended Hutchinson Community College, where I also worked at K-Mart. In 1975, I worked at the Coleman Company, where I was involved with shipping and receiving, tracking incoming and outgoing shipments. I transitioned to Cessna Aircraft in 1978 working as an administrative assistant for the Director of Piston Flight Test.

I was married in 1980 and moved to Florida, where I was an administrative assistant to the Director of Engineering - Piper Aircraft. After the birth of my daughter, I became involved with various volunteer activities described below.

I had the opportunity to be a 4-H leader with the Sunflower 4-H which included instructional learning, various learning activities and summer camp. Through our church/school partnership I became a tutor for Park Elementary School helping children develop math and reading skills.

Following the death of my daughter, I established a charitable non-profit organization called Stephanie's Small Comforts, which provided over 20,000 blankets for children and adults worldwide. Through this organization I was awarded the Distinctive Community Service Award from the Association of Fund Raising Professionals and the Red Cross Community Hero Award. In addition, I volunteered at the United Methodist Food Bank processing input from clients in need.

It would be important to emphasize open communication, community access and active involvement between students, parents and community leaders. Also explore potential educational opportunities for kids.

Sarah Herrman

I am a 3rd generation 4-Her and my son is 4th generation. I grew up in Leavenworth County and currently serve as a club co-leader. Our club is very active in the community of Colwich. I am an Intensive Supervision officer in Sedgwick County.

I currently serve as a co-leader of Colwich Clovers. I am familiar mostly with 4-H programming but have used a few other programs.

The goals I envision for Extension are to continue to grow 4-H club memberships and get more youth active in 4-H events.



Joanna Farmer

I am a dedicated high school science and agriculture teacher with two decades of experience at Wichita Public Schools. Currently, I teach agriculture at Wichita Southeast High School, where I had the honor of founding and nurturing our FFA program. Over the past eight years, our chapter has grown from a modest group of 15 students to the largest FFA chapter in Kansas, boasting over 350 active members.

In addition to my teaching responsibilities, I was privileged to serve on the 2024 Kansas Teacher of the Year team, an experience that was both humbling and inspiring. My commitment to community service is deeply ingrained in my work. I manage the city's largest community garden and run a food pantry that provides vital support to students and their families. Last year, in collaboration with the City of Wichita, we planted over 10,000 seeds, with plans to transplant the seedlings this fall. I also coordinate monthly weekend volunteer groups to address various community needs.

On a personal note, I have been happily married to my husband, Daniel, for 27 years, and together we have the joy of raising six adopted children. My work in education and community service is driven by a deep passion for fostering growth and making a positive impact both in the classroom and within the community.

My involvement with educational programs spans both my youth and adult years, deeply rooted in the 4-H community. As a young person, I was actively engaged in the Chico 4-H Club in Chico, Texas, where I spent ten enriching years. During this time, I served as an officer in our local club, the county group, and the district council, gaining invaluable leadership and organizational skills.

As a longtime educator and community advocate, my goals for the Extension program focus on leveraging my experiences to enhance and expand local programming, particularly in ways that address the diverse needs of our community. Drawing from my extensive background with 4-H and educational outreach, I envision several key objectives for the Extension program:

1. Assess and Address Community Needs:
2. Expand Outreach and Inclusion
3. Utilize Extension Resources Effectively
4. Implement and Evaluate Programs
5. Promote Successes and Impact

In summary, I envision a role where I can contribute to the development and enhancement of Extension programs by applying my background in education, community service, and program development to meet and exceed the goals of K-State Research and Extension.



4-H Youth Development

Heidi Wells

I am a registered dietitian and serve as the school foodservice director for both Renwick and Cheney school districts. I have been involved in 4-H as both a club and project leader for 12 years. I am also involved in our church community, Cheney REC, and I coach HS track.

Throughout my career, I have helped educate adults and youth about nutrition and wellness, some of those in collaboration with K-State Extension. I have also been involved with some educational programs through my work and KSDE.

The goals I envision for Extension are sustainable programming, and grants to improve our buildings.



Agriculture and Horticulture



Stephen Brady

I am a third-generation nurseryman and former president of the KNLA. I help run Brady Nursery Inc. and manage our tree production farm.

I have very little experience working with adult or youth education programs. The majority of my time is spent working.

A major goal I envision for Extension is rebuilding Wichita and the surrounding towns' tree canopy with tough, durable trees. I aim to help Extension with my experience growing trees in Sedgwick County.

Duke Meyer

Piper Schlatter



John Hecht

I am a retired agronomist with 46 years of experience in the field. I retired 2 summers ago from Crop Quest as Special Projects Manager. I started my career in Great Bend in 1979 working for Servi-Tech Inc. and then was a charter member of Crop Quest which started in 1992. I was a Division Manager for both organizations before becoming Special Projects manager in 2001 and moving the family to Farmington, NM to work with Native American tribes and developing other business for the company in Roswell, NM, Uvalde, TX and international opportunities.

While I was in Great Bend, I was on the Barton County Extension Ag PDC board and on the executive board also for several years, and was involved with Barton County business and hiring of agents. I have also recently served on the Ag PDC board and the executive board in Sedgwick County.

Most of my experiences with Extension were with the Ag side of Extension, since I'm a former agronomist. I helped develop and put on many adult programs with extension agents, and knew most of the extension personnel and people in Manhattan. I also helped research and extension personnel find research locations in the state with growers and aided in the collection of that information. My children were also involved in 4-H, so I was involved in that from a parent's perspective.

The goals that I would have for Extension in Sedgwick county is to find more money. This is a problem that needs to be addressed soon, or you will lose agents or have to give up services. The issue that needs to be addressed in the county is that you have an urban population and a rural population, both of which have needs. County commissioners need to better understand the role of Extension, and Extension needs to try and find ways to better serve the urban population. The rural population also has needs, but the current Extension programs are designed to address those.



Harrison Mikesell

My name is Harrison (Harry) Mikesell. Born and raised on the West side of Wichita, I got my Bachelor's degree in construction science and management from Kansas State University. I have worked on the general contractor, subcontractor, developer, and owner's sides of construction, which has given me a comprehensive understanding of the planning and building process.

Now, I work for Wichita Public Schools for the Design and Construction department, which has brought me closer to the community and I want such a brighter future for local youth. Outside of work, trying to keep up with my 5-year-old is my favorite thing on this earth.

I am a graduate of Kansas State University (Manhattan, KS) but live in Wichita, KS. I've seen firsthand the incredible opportunities the Extension office provides as I live close to the Extension office and have attended events there.

Goals I envision for Extension are extending more programs and creating further partnerships to bring higher education and additional learning environments to the community. Working for Wichita Public Schools, has brought me closer to the community and has made me want to create more opportunities for the youth.



Crystal Walter

Crystal Walter has been a resident of Sedgwick County for more than 20 years. Crystal has worked at several non-profit organizations in the Wichita area that help those in need. Currently, she is the Program Director for a government-funded initiative that helps seniors earn money to tutor children who need extra help. Prior to that, Crystal worked at IRC as Program Coordinator for a government-funded project that helps refugees fleeing war to find homes and work here in Kansas. Crystal is excited to have another avenue to connect Sedgwick County residents in need, with services that can help them.

My experiences with involve growing up in a 4-H Club, which taught me so much about public speaking and proper meeting etiquette. I always looked forward to fair time and would work all year to create items to enter in our county fair. As an adult, I've used the Extension Center on a regular basis, including for Farmer's Market's in the summer and consulting on the health of my trees and grass. Several times a year, I have also participated in several resource fairs at the Extension Center. It's a good place to share information that can help others.

I feel that not everyone understands all the help and support that the Extension Office can provide residents at virtually every stage of their life. I'd like to help expand the understanding and promote the Extension Office through networking, media, social media and other outlets.



Bonnie Glaser

Bonnie Glaser has a deep, lifelong connection to K-State Extension. During her senior year at Kansas State University, she completed an internship with Sedgwick County 4-H Extension, which launched her career as the 4-H Agent in Kingman County. After relocating to Derby, Bonnie dedicated 23 years to Derby USD 260 as a Parent Educator with Parents as Teachers, ultimately serving as the Program Coordinator prior to her retirement. Continuing her commitment to Extension work, she has since become an active volunteer with the Sedgwick County Master Gardener program.

In Bonnie's internship program, she presented the Chick Embryology and Bread in a Bag lessons to 3rd Grade students in Sedgwick County. As Kingman County Extension 4-H Agent, she worked with youth, ages 7 - 18, their parents and Community 4-H Leaders. Later as a Parent Educator, she worked with children, infants to age 5 and their parents.

Bonnie's goals would be to expand local reach and recruit 4-H youth across all demographics, strengthen family and intergenerational engagement through creative activities, and enhance community awareness of the Extension programs available to all Sedgwick County residents. Bonnie has a passion for serving her community and working with diverse populations.



Chelle Hanson

Chelle Hanson is a Parent Engagement Specialist with Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL), supporting parents and caregivers through education, peer support, and family-centered programming. Her background includes child welfare, domestic violence services, and foster care and adoption support. As an adoptive parent, kinship caregiver, mother of six (four biological, two adopted), and grandmother of seven, Chelle brings both professional and personal experience to her passion for strengthening families and helping caregivers create safe, nurturing environments.

I am currently a Family Engagement Specialist with Kansas Children's Service League, in Wichita, and teach 5 parenting groups per week. We meet the parents where they are in their parenting journey and discuss a variety of topics based on the experiences they currently present with. In the past, I have facilitated a healthy relationship class so survivors of domestic violence [for approximately 5 years] and spent just over a year facilitating foster care certification classes to those hoping to become foster parents. At KCSL, I have partnered with a K-State Extension Sedgwick County educators to host 2 full Eat Better, Move More groups, and have approximately 11 graduates from those education groups.

My goals for Extension would be to see programs reach more families and help to educate parents and caregivers so that we are raising healthier families, while meeting community needs on a local level.



Kristine Rosenhagen

I am a retired math teacher in the Wichita Public Schools. Currently, I am a guest teacher (substitute) for Wichita and Haysville school districts. I completed my Extension Master Gardener training in the fall of 2025. Since then, I have volunteered for several outreach projects such as a field trip guide for 5th-grade students from Adams Elementary, Mother's Day at Botanica, and substituting for the gardening hotline.

I volunteer for special events at several of Wichita's middle schools. For the upcoming year, I plan to serve on the Hospitality Committee and Hotline Committee. I taught for 29 years and I still serve as a guest teacher. I also worked for Kansas Strong and I provided training to middle and high school math teachers across the state.

During this first full year of internship, I have tried a variety of activities that have increased my knowledge and understanding of the Master Gardener program. Highlights include: prepping for plant sale, open house at John Pair Center, and learning with my fellow gardeners at MGMTG.

I hope to add to the growth of the program so that Sedgwick County Extension impacts more of our community. I am a numbers person, so I pay attention when Debbie or Abby display our outreach numbers. I think we should celebrate the numbers, but continue to have a growth mindset as we serve.

Thank you to these Sedgwick County citizens for their willingness to contribute their time, experience and expertise for the betterment of Extension programs in Sedgwick County.