

SEDGWICK COUNTY
EXTENSION COUNCIL ELECTION
CANDIDATES



**AGRICULTURE/HORTICULTURE
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**



What else should we know about you?

My wife Kristin and I have 4 children and are both Wichita State grads. We have been farming with my family and truly enjoy and appreciate the opportunities we have had and look forward to the future.

Mark Bergkamp, Clearwater

In your view, what role does Extension play as part of a thriving community?

Extension serves as a resource for unbiased research and advice for all those who use it.

Please list the top (3) three priorities, in your opinion, for the program development committee in which you are a candidate.

1. Making sure the most relevant issues are being addressed
2. Helping extension staff with feedback on current programs
3. Helping identify future issues

Please list relevant work/community involvement/volunteer experience.

I have served on the Ag/Hort PDC several years ago as well as the Sedgwick County Farm Bureau Board.

SEDGWICK COUNTY
EXTENSION COUNCIL ELECTION
CANDIDATES



**AGRICULTURE/HORTICULTURE
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**



Irene Denault, Wichita

What else should we know about you?

I am a very strong supporter of the Master Gardening program. It has provided so many with education and guidance when they have needed it. It is a source of continuing education and connection for me. If there is anything I can do to support or promote it, I would do it gladly. It is an honor to be asked to help.

In your view, what role does Extension play as part of a thriving community?

The Extension provides information and guidance for individuals in the community wanting to further their horticultural education. It does this through excellent education events, a beautiful demonstration garden, the Master Gardener's hotline as well as various horticultural publications provided to the public. This allows community members to grow in knowledge and confidence, which is crucial for a thriving community.

Please list the top (3) three priorities, in your opinion, for the program development committee in which you are a candidate.

1. Provide information and support to expand all relevant programs.
2. Be a liaison between local businesses and Extension office so that more information can be given to community members.
3. Explore annual flower trials and how to expand the program as well as provide information to the community.

Please list relevant work/community involvement/volunteer experience.

I am a wife and mother of two boys living in Wichita, KS. I am the owner of Denault Designs, a small local business that provides fine gardening and landscape services. I am passionate about providing education to my customers and to community members to help them feel more confident in their gardening abilities. It is truly an honor to be able to pass along the information that I received while maintaining my Master Gardener's certification around me.

SEDGWICK COUNTY
EXTENSION COUNCIL ELECTION
CANDIDATES



**AGRICULTURE/HORTICULTURE
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**



Everett Price, Haysville

In your view, what role does Extension play as part of a thriving community?

The Extension provides affordable and accessible education to all Sedgwick County residents using highly qualified Extension staff and volunteers. It is constantly monitoring the needs of our community and offers a broad spectrum of leading-edge technology and training to our county and surrounding areas.

Please list the top (3) three priorities, in your opinion, for the program development committee in which you are a candidate.

As a committee, first, we should be assessing the needs of our community for the purpose of providing the best and most accurate resources. Second, we develop strategies for the needs identified. Finally, creating avenues to effectively reach the communities needs.

Please list relevant work/community involvement/volunteer experience.

I established a community tree farm in the Haysville KS. area for the purpose of planting trees in local public areas and to offer trees to new home owners in the community. This initiative has grown into a broader spectrum called "Grow Haysville". I am the founder and president of the Haysville Horticulture Club educating the community on researched based horticulture info from K-State. I was featured weekly in the Wichita Eagle news paper, and our home has been on the Sedg, Co. Garden tour.

What else should we know about you?

I was a Manufacturing Engineer in Research and Development at Cessna. Involved in the Total Quality Management program at Friends University. I was honored to have recently received an award as Citizen of the Year in recognition of community development, and received the Melba Compton Master Gardener Of The Year Award. I enjoy maintaining our no-till garden, growing blackberries and giving talks on various horticulture topics.

SEDGWICK COUNTY
EXTENSION COUNCIL ELECTION

CANDIDATES



**AGRICULTURE/HORTICULTURE
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**



Tony Spexarth, Colwich

In your view, what role does Extension play as part of a thriving community?

In my opinion, extension plays a vital role in the community in which we live. As an example, I personally use extension services throughout the year to keep me updated on the latest agricultural issues, whether it be agronomy, horticulture, livestock, or AG economics. In an ever-changing world, many people depend on extension, knowing they can always reach out to them for an answer on numerous topics.

Please list the top (3) three priorities, in your opinion, for the program development committee in which you are a candidate.

My top priorities for the program development committee would be to find out what issues are the most prevalent in our community and then address those issues accordingly. I also feel like community feedback would be very important in regarding what direction extension service programs should be directed.

Please list relevant work/community involvement/volunteer experience.

I have a bachelor's degree in agronomy from Kansas State University. I serve on the Kansas Corn Grower services advisory committee, giving input on direction and programs offered by the Kansas Corn Growers Association. I am an actively involved member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Colwich.

What else should we know about you?

I am a fifth-generation farmer growing wheat, corn, and soybeans around the Colwich area. As a young producer I see an advantage to get involved in our community, not just in agriculture, but all aspects of life. With the disconnect of rural lifestyle becoming more negative, it is imperative that young people shine a light on the industries that feed an ever-growing and hungry world.