



2020 SEDGWICK COUNTY EXTENSION COUNCIL ELECTION VOTER GUIDE

OFFICIAL VOTING DAY

Thursday, October 17, 2019
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Sedgwick County Extension Education Center
Dunning Learning Center / Extension Lobby
7001 W. 21st St. North
Wichita, KS 67205

EARLY VOTING DAYS

October 15 & 16, 2019
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sedgwick County Extension Education Center
Dunning Learning Center / Extension Lobby
7001 W. 21st St. North
Wichita, KS 67205

WHY VOTE?

K-State Research & Extension-Sedgwick County is a community-led organization. Strong extension programs are the outcome of a partnership between extension agents and local citizens. Each year, candidates are elected to the Extension Council by running for one of four Program Development Committees (PDCs). The members of each PDC work together with agents to develop local extension programming. Committees, which are advisory in nature, focus on these core areas: Agriculture and Horticulture, Community Vitality, Family and Consumer Sciences, and 4-H Youth Development. The role of each committee is outlined on the next page.

Your vote helps shape the future of our community!

K-STATE
Research and Extension

Sedgwick County



*Sedgwick County...
working for you*

Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact Jennifer Brantley, Extension Director at (316) 660-0100 or brantley@ksu.edu.

**PLEASE READ INFORMATION
ABOUT ALL NOMINEES FOR
THE 2020 EXTENSION
COUNCIL, THEN CAST YOUR
VOTE FOR THREE INDIVIDUALS
IN EACH PROGRAM AREA.**

**2020
SEDGWICK COUNTY
EXTENSION
COUNCIL ELECTION**



**AGRICULTURE/HORTICULTURE
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

This PDC works to establish programming that serves area producers, growers, farmers, and individuals interested in community beautification.

**FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**



Creating healthy and sustainable families is central to the work of family and consumer sciences. Members of the FCS PDC aim to develop programs that meet the needs of today's families when it comes to health, nutrition, family resources, adult development, and personal growth.



**4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Empowering youth to reach their full potential by working and learning in partnership with caring adults is at the heart of 4-H. This PDC works to develop programming that best fits the needs of kids through after-school programs, school and community clubs, and 4-H camp.

**COMMUNITY VITALITY
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**



Building community is essential to the mission of Extension. The CV PDC strives to create a vision across traditional geographical, sociological, and political boundaries by promoting Extension activities and creating program opportunities that assist civic leaders in Sedgwick County.

YOU MUST BE 18 YEARS OF AGE AND A RESIDENT OF SEDGWICK COUNTY TO VOTE.

SEDGWICK COUNTY
EXTENSION COUNCIL ELECTION
CANDIDATES



**AGRICULTURE/HORTICULTURE
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**



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.

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.

SEDGWICK COUNTY
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**AGRICULTURE/HORTICULTURE
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**



Irene Denault, Wichita

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 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.

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.

SEDGWICK COUNTY
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**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
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**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.

SEDGWICK COUNTY
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**FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**



Jaleen Claassen, Wichita

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

A thriving community needs individuals who are emotionally and physically healthy. Through a partnership between K-State Research & Extension and The Treehouse, I have witnessed young moms transform the way they parent due to programs like Better Brains for Babies and Responsive Discipline. Early parenting education creates homes that focus on child development, realistic expectations, and effective discipline. The extension office is creating generational changes with the programs they offer!

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

1. The committee is here to assist the efforts of the Extension Office and to help promote Family and Consumer Science programs and resources in Sedgwick County.
2. To join hands and continue the movement to serve residents of Sedgwick County that are under-served.
3. To continue to build and solidify positive relationships with community agencies also serving the people of Sedgwick County.

Please list relevant work/community involvement/volunteer experience.

Teacher in USD 259, 2001-2004. (4th grade)
Operations Manager at The Treehouse, 2004-2012.
Client Services at The Treehouse, 2018 to present.
ICT Food Rescue Volunteer, August 2018 to present.
Parent Volunteer in the Maize USD 266 district, 2008 to present.
Family and Consumer Science PDC Member at Large, 2019
My husband, Brandon, and I have four children - Brady (15), Elias (13), Juliet (8) and Pepper (3).

What else should we know about you?

While teaching 4th grade in USD 259, my desire to help struggling moms before their children entered school led me to the work of The Treehouse. Women are referred to us while pregnant or with very young children. It is my experience as a teacher and mother that helps build relationships with women from all backgrounds. Relating to the challenges and joys parents face, regardless of their circumstances, is what binds me to the community and motivates me to serve where needed.

SEDGWICK COUNTY
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**FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**



Bonnie Hitzeman, Wichita

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

Through educational programs and outreach, the Sedgwick County Extension provides learning opportunities for residents of Sedgwick County for varied age groups and backgrounds, improving knowledge in their specific areas of need.

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

1. Offer Sedgwick County residents an opportunity to talk with well trained, unbiased counselors to improve their understanding of Medicare and the insurance issues involved with Medicare. Thus allowing individuals to make informed decisions about what is best for them.
2. Use the resources available to us to help improve the SHICK program.
3. Offer support to the Extension Agent for Adult Development and Aging. Implementing any changes or updates required.

Please list relevant work/community involvement/volunteer experience.

I have been a SHICK Counselor for 5 years. During this time, I have done both Medicare counseling and the statewide SHICK Hotline.

What else should we know about you?

I have been a lifetime resident of Sedgwick County.

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**FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**



Margo McDonald, Derby

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

The Extension offers many affordable educational programs to our community based on research-based strategies. There are many programs that cover Agriculture and Natural Resources, Community Development, Family and Consumer Sciences, and 4-H Youth Development. The information, the resources, and the programs provided by the Extension help in building healthy and successful communities.

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

1. Building awareness and promoting the many affordable, educational programs the Extension offers. There are Sedgwick County citizens that are unaware of the wonderful programs we have.
2. Developing relationships and collaborations with community partners to extend our Outreach programs. Identifying underserved areas our programs are not reaching.
3. Supporting and providing input to our agents in developing programs that will meet the needs of our community.

Please list relevant work/community involvement/volunteer experience.

Retired Senior Administrator at AMS Reference Laboratory, Sedgwick County Master Gardener since 2015, Board Member of Derby Community Foundation from January 2016-December 2018, Committee Member of Family and Consumer Sciences Program Development Committee, Executive Board Member of the Sedgwick County Extension Council, Derby Health Collaborative Organization Member, Master Gardener Advisory Board Member.

What else should we know about you?

In my laboratory career, I focused on improving the Health and Wellness of our communities through building outreach programs for underserved individuals. In my retirement life, I have been able to continue my passion for improving the Health and Wellness of our communities through volunteering. I have been a member of the Family and Consumer Sciences PDC 2018 & 2019 and am currently serving as the chair. Advising and supporting this amazing FCS group has been very rewarding.

SEDGWICK COUNTY
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**FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**



BreAnna Monk, Wichita

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

The extension office educates and creates community-based volunteer work that nourishes each individual mentally and physically. It provides food, training, resources, and programs that enhance the production of long-lasting results for years to come.

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

Please list relevant work/community involvement/volunteer experience.

I am the Director of the Derby Senior Center, and I have overseen various programs that increased community connectivity and volunteer opportunities. During my time at DSC I have created programs such as Can We Talk?, started a community garden of 6 plots, organized various health courses and held Medicare classes alongside many volunteers. I am nothing without my team, and I appreciate them.

What else should we know about you?

I currently hold two Masters degrees in Healthcare and Business and I have 15 years of healthcare under my belt. I have served in a Director role in Education and currently Senior Services. I have advocated for Seniors for the last 10 years, and I look for various avenues to reach the community to assist in Senior and family care. I have volunteered at various organizations for more than 1,000 hours each year, and I look forward to creating a new bond with you.

SEDGWICK COUNTY
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**FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**



Cara Poole, Wichita

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

Extension is a part of a thriving community in many ways. It connects people to each other and to resources available to them. It connects people to each other in the form of classes, farmer's markets, family fun events, and organizations such as advisory committees. These classes and events not only connect people to resources but also how to use them, which is an important piece not provided elsewhere. These elements are important to a thriving community.

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

My first priority would be to offer opportunities for people to learn how to select food that fits their budget and nutritional needs. My second priority would be to offer opportunities for people to learn what to do with these foods once they've obtained them. My third priority would be to show how cooking can meet more than just physiological needs--it can connect people to each other.

Please list relevant work/community involvement/volunteer experience.

I teach culinary arts and baking and pastry at the high school level. I also teach community cooking classes for adults and children. I have been involved in the food circle, helped teach a class on cooking techniques and Instant Pot at the extension office, and am involved in ProStart through KRHA.

What else should we know about you?

I am excited to be a part of this committee because I interact with students every day. Many families say they wish there was a program like this for them because they want to learn about food and how to cook. I have been connected to the Sedgwick County Extension Office through a member of our advisory committee and would love to now help out at the Extension Office.

SEDGWICK COUNTY
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CANDIDATES



**4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**



What else should we know about you?

I am the oldest son of teaching parents with over 70 years of dedication between them. I understand the importance of educating our children with more than what they learn in textbooks. I was raised in Anthony, Kansas and currently live in Clearwater with my wife and two daughters. My oldest son graduated Manhattan Christian College and currently is finishing his dual degree at Kansas State University.

Brandon Dills, Clearwater

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

I have always seen Extension as a way to help us return to our rural roots and values, particularly helping one another.

Extension does this through education and offering opportunities for us to share knowledge and skills that can help others succeed.

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

I am a candidate for 4-H. We have got to get our kids off the Xbox and show them the kind of skills that they can take with them throughout their life. There is a wonderful world of experiences waiting for them, and it all too often gets lost in technology and politics.

1. Promote interaction between rural, military, and urban 4H'ers.
2. Implement mentoring programs to help kids get involved.
3. Promote leadership opportunities for our youth.

Please list relevant work/community involvement/volunteer experience.

I grew up with 4H and FFA, holding multiple leadership roles in both. In my church, I have chaired hiring committees, been Vice-Chair/Board Chairman, been a member/chairman of our elders, and served on numerous project committees. As a safety professional in the grain and Natural Gas industries, I train people ranging from grade school youth to adult professionals in my industry and various first responders. As sheep superintendent at the fair, I led the project to replace aging livestock pens.

SEDGWICK COUNTY
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**4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**



Luke Nichols, Wichita

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

Extension is in place to help benefit all in a community to help individuals make better choices and to aid in their everyday lives. From making the planet more healthy to assisting a young person develop into their best self. Extension can not do everything for everybody but is in place to give resources not found elsewhere.

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

Since I am approaching this council from a 4-Her's perspective, I am focused on that aspect.

1. Assisting the new 4-H agent - who has big shoes to fill
2. I would like to see the 4-H County Ambassador program get re-energized.
3. I would like to start the discussion of initiating a scholarship program such as an endowment to help our county 4-Hers tackle the cost of college.

Please list relevant work/community involvement/volunteer experience.

I have been a pediatrician for 18 years in Wichita. I am a former Russell County 4-Her and parent of two previous Sedgwick County 4-Hers whom both were recipients of the Key Award. I have been on the Sedgwick County 4-H Advisory Council for 9 years (3 as Carnival Committee Chair, 3 as Secretary, and 3 as Selection Committee Chair). I was also a previous Achievers 4-H Club Community Leader.

What else should we know about you?

I am a proud Charter Member of the Kansas 4-H Foundation 1905 Society. In my years as a 4-Her in Russell County in 1987 exhibited the Grand Champion Market Lamb at both the Kansas State Fair and Kansas Junior Livestock Show. I attended Rock Springs Ranch 4-H Camp each year and loved each one. I attended the Washington DC Citizenship Focus trip in 1987. I married the girl I met while attending KSU and have been married for 25 years.

SEDGWICK COUNTY
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**4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**



Dagny Waldmeier, Wichita

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

Extension services have lasting benefits to citizens in a variety of areas. I truly appreciate having a reputable resource to ask questions, learn from, and grow with through Extension. Our Extension agents and staff are a plethora of knowledge for today's focused tasks and an encouragement to developing tomorrow's leaders. Extension is vital to our thriving community. We have such a wonderful opportunity to participate throughout the year with extension programs!

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

Citizenship, Leadership, and Education are three keys to success in 4-H. I believe every citizen can benefit from Extension guidance and activities, especially 4-H participants, families, and friends.

Making the Best Better is no small commitment and, at the same time, it is a worthy pursuit! Passionately living out the 4-H Pledge is a wonderful opportunity for the 4-H PDC to grow and share the priorities of citizenship, leadership, and education.

Please list relevant work/community involvement/volunteer experience.

I am an active 4-H Parent with the Achievers Club of Sedgwick County (2017-Present) and 4-H Volunteer at OzSome 4-H Camp @Rock Springs Camp (Summer 2018 and Summer 2019). I love learning new things and being involved. I enjoy participating in activities like 48 Hours of 4-H! Responding to needs, raising funds, and completing hands-on projects helps us connect and change the world one project at a time. I serve as a small group leader in children's ministry at church (2005-Present).

What else should we know about you?

Each day can be an adventure! We are a K-State Family! We enjoy participating together as a family and are loving doing 4-H! Our ever-growing desire to learn and try new things has us on the go quite often, like many 4-H families! I am excited for the opportunity to serve in new ways within 4-H and Sedgwick County Extension.

SEDGWICK COUNTY
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**COMMUNITY VITALITY
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**



Maggie Ballard, Wichita

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

Provides programs and information to the community that they may not already be aware of. Opens doors and educates the community on programs that could benefit themselves or someone close to them....family member, co-worker, neighbor, etc.

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

What else should we know about you?

I serve on many boards within our community. Commissioner Cruse's Advisory Board, Events Chair for Family Promise, a 1st-year active member of Wichita's Junior League, Love Your Community Board, Deliver Meals on Wheels once a week and Event's Chair for American Cancer Society. I work for COMCARE of Sedgwick County as a Development Coordinator and am passionate about the underserved and offering a hand up.

Please list relevant work/community involvement/volunteer experience.

My son, Paxton and I started the Paxton's Blessing Boxes around the Wichita area and around the state. They are similar to micro libraries, but ours are pantries. We have 54 to date and stock them with non-perishables, water, and toiletries.

Have plans to soon expand outside the state. This will be our 7th year doing our Socktober, Sock Drive. We pass them out to our local shelters and homeless the first Saturday of each month. We usually collect around 5000 pairs each year.

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**COMMUNITY VITALITY
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**



Cara Grier, Mt. Hope

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

Extension plays the part of a great outreach for individuals and families that need help with a variety of problems, whether it be problems with family, health, nutrition or education, the Extension is there for them.

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

Please list relevant work/community involvement/volunteer experience.

I have been actively involved in the Mount Hope PRIDE Organization for over 6 years and have been President for 5 years. I work closely with the Mayor, the City of Mount Hope, and other community organizations to build and better our community. I am a people person and have always worked to help others. I have volunteered all my life from Special Olympics to local community events.

What else should we know about you?

I was born in Wichita, Ks but consider Pratt, Ks my home town. I have been happily married for 16 years to Alan Grier, and we live in Mount Hope, Ks. We are both strong community members, he serves on the city council, and I serve on the PRIDE organization. I am currently employed at Senior Care Pharmacy in the billing department. My passion is Event Planning and helping others.

**SEDGWICK COUNTY
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**COMMUNITY VITALITY
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**



Donna Wise, Clearwater

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

Extension provides wonderful resources for many of the things people do in their everyday lives. There are many opportunities to learn from the many things that people learn in 4-H, to gardening, to cooking healthy foods, to how to manage crops on a farm. There are also many opportunities to volunteer, such as the new Master Food volunteer program, along with the better known Master Gardeners and very important SHICK volunteers. It is wonderful to be able to give back to our community.

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

I have served for two years on the Community Vitality Committee, and one of our major concerns is how to get the services offered at Extension into all areas of the county. It is also important for us to get the community at large to know who we are and what we do. I think it is important for us to find ways to learn what people need and find an intersection of helping them know what we can do to help them and what we cannot do. I think we are making good progress.

Please list relevant work/community involvement/volunteer experience.

I am a retired pastor and may have been the first female Scoutmaster in Boy Scouts of America. I have a heart for helping senior citizens, and now that I am retired I have a better understanding of their issues. I also serve on the Sedgwick County Farm Bureau board and am well aware that there are many needs in the rural area of our county that are sometimes overshadowed by or large urban component. My undergraduate work was in accounting and business administration.

What else should we know about you?

I consider it a privilege to serve on the Sedgwick County Extension Council, and I wish more people knew of the services that are offered here. As a Master Gardener, I sometimes give talks about gardening issues in the community, and I always include a few minutes of teaching my audience about what Extension does as a whole. I believe in Extension and hope we are able to get more people to know about what is offered here and utilize our services and resources.

