Kansas

Farm Financial Skills For Kansas Women in Agriculture

More than 25,000 women producers in Kansas farm over 14 million acres. K-State Research and Extension recognized the importance of this demographic to the vitality of agriculture and rural communities across their state. The downturn in the farm economy highlighted a need for more education in farm financial management, specifically focusing on debt/asset relationships, cash flow management, financial analysis, and benchmarking.

A four-part program was held over four weeks where a keynote presentation was broadcast from the K-State campus one evening each week to 32 host locations across Kansas. A total of 685 participants enrolled in the series along with 75 KSRE extension agents who facilitated the local sites. Each night of the program, a different financial topic was discussed and local extension agents facilitated a hands-on case farm activity for participants to apply what they learned. Local speakers were trained to give in-person presentations about managing family living expenses and farm stress.

After the series concluded and the COVID-19 pandemic hit, project directors Robin Reid and LaVell Winsor reached out to this group with two statewide webinars to inform producers what was happening, how to adjust their financial management plans for their operation and how to manage stress and uncertainty. Two hundred and sixteen participants viewed the program with over 300 views of the recording.

Over 95% of the participants in the 4-part series ranked the material as “Valuable” or “Very Valuable”. All participants showed an increase in their level of knowledge for keeping quality farm records and putting together and assessing balance sheets, income statements, and cash flow statements. Over 87% of participants stated they planned to develop a balance sheet for their farm business every year, over 75% stated they would develop an income statement and cash flow statement every year, and 63% plan to make a family living budget.

“I finally know what this Balance Sheet is telling me!! It is not just a report with numbers. Understanding what it is telling me about our enterprise and how it can help us make decisions has me excited!” – Kansas Producer
“Educating America’s farmers and ranchers to manage the unique risks of producing food for the world’s table.”

Extension Risk Management Education (ERME) is delivered through four regional centers that provide grant funding and leadership within their regions.

Projects are producer-focused, results-based and encourage public-private partnerships. Funded projects must identify targeted results that will help producers manage risk and then describe how the project will measure those results.

Extension Risk Management Education has funded innovative education projects that have generated tangible results for agricultural producers in 36 US states and territories. Beginning in 2020, the Centers initiated a new funding opportunity for the delivery of risk management education to agricultural producers underserved by the Federal crop insurance program. Priorities for both of these programs include commitments to funding results, providing transparent accountability, and encouraging collaboration. The accomplishments of all funded projects are available for public viewing on the ERME website: http://ExtensionRME.org