

News Release for Immediate Use or Next Issue
Kelsey Hatesohl, Horticulture Extension Agent
River Valley Extension District
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Women in Agriculture Series Held in Belleville

Women from across the area took part in a six-week Women in Agriculture Series that concluded March 28th at the Astra Bank Meeting Room in Belleville. Attendees ranged from those just getting into the industry by inheriting farmland, to those marrying into a farm family, to women who have been active farm operators for many years. A committee of six women from the River Valley Extension District, local Farm Service Agency Office, Farm Bureau Financial Services, AgMark, and Kansas Farm Bureau planned and implemented the Series.

During the six, five-hour sessions, women listened to speakers and completed hands on activities to learn about a variety of farm management topics. At the first session, Meagan Cramer, with Kansas Farm Bureau, presented information on Ag Advocacy. Three committee members led the group through a personality profile. At the second session, Mark Nelson from Kansas Farm Bureau spoke on grain marketing, risk management, and crop insurance. Nick Hansen of AgMark spoke on cost of production and Carrie Williams, also of AgMark LLC, instructed the class on the global agriculture economy. Stacey Forshee shared information about different types of Crop Insurance. At the third session, Kelsey Hatesohl, River Valley Horticulture Agent, talked about vegetable gardens, lawn care, and tree pruning. Emily Allen and Tamie Buckley of the Farm Service Agency discussed their program opportunities. Terry Alstatt with the Natural Resources Conservation Service spoke on cost sharing opportunities. Katelyn Durst with Polansky Seed discussed cover crops and soil health. For the fourth session, participants engaged in hands on training with laptops to learn how to keep farm records with Quick Books led by Kara Mayer with K-State Research and Extension. Phil Gilliland, with Citizens National Bank, talked about how to work with your lenders. At the fifth session, Stephen Martinez with Farm Bureau Financial Services shared information on farm succession and estate planning with the group.

Members of the group were encouraged to bring their spouse, or other family members involved in their operation, to the final session. The group learned about developing equitable leases and understanding Kansas lease laws, presented by Mykel Taylor from the K-State Agricultural Economics Department. Justin Wagoner with K-State Research and Extension spoke on beef cattle nutrition. To cap off the event the participants were awarded certificates of completion following a social hour and a meal prepared by Vathauer Catering.

Participants not only learned a lot during the sessions, but they also developed relationships with others in the ag industry throughout the area. Members on the planning committee for this event were Tatum Couture, Katelyn Durst, Bethany Swafford, Chandra Stuchlik, Rebecca Frerking, and Kelsey Hatesohl. The event would not have been successful without the generous assistance from these local sponsors: AgMark LLC, Astra Bank, Citizens National Bank, Farm Bureau Financial Services, Farm Management Services Inc., Kansas Crossroads RC&D, Nesika Energy, Nelson Seed Sales, Polansky Seed, Reinke, Republic County Farm Bureau and K-State Research and Extension. This farm management Series rotates throughout the River Valley Extension District on an annual basis. This area includes Clay, Cloud, Republic, and Washington

Counties. Next year, this Series will be held in Clay County. For more information, contact a River Valley Extension District Office in your county.



Participants in the Women in Agriculture Series received certificates of completion at the final session. Pictured from left to right: (standing) Back Row: Kelsey Hatesohl, Rebecca Frerking, Beth Blackwell, Tynan Dowell, Kim Cerny, Lesley Fiser, Jeanette Sheets. Left to right: (standing) Front Row: Chandra Stuchlik, Bethany Swafford, Lindsay Runft, Lesa Zenger, Kandy Eickman, Paula Hobelmann, Katelyn Durst. Not Pictured: Tatum Couture

-30-

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