

Johnson County, the most populated county in Kansas, is located in northeast Kansas within the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Area. It has a diversified urban, suburban and rural population of nearly 580,000. There are 20 incorporated cities in the county with Olathe as the county seat. Johnson County is nationally recognized for the quality of its six school districts and is also home to several institutions of higher learning including Mid America Nazarene University, Johnson County Community College, the KU Edwards Campus and the K-State Olathe Campus. Johnson County is a multi-agent county with seven agents and ten support staff.

**TITLE:** Johnson County Extension Agent

**PRIMARY AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY:** Community Food Systems

**LOCATION:** Johnson County, Olathe, Kansas

**APPLICATION DATE:** Screening of applications will begin November 10, 2017 and continue until the position is filled. This position is available on or after November 10, 2017, the starting date is negotiable.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Extension agents are professional educators who serve as a link between Kansas State University and communities across Kansas. Agents are administratively responsible to the Director of K-State Research and Extension (represented by a designated administrator) and the local extension board.

1. Develop and implement contemporary comprehensive, pro-active educational programming related to community food systems. Programming will include but is not limited to: production, harvest/postharvest management, packaging, and marketing plus community and farm sustainability issues. Focus on vegetable/fruit based horticulture including the “fresh market” industry and community gardens.
2. Programming will include these steps:
  - a) Identify local needs and emerging issues related to K-State Research and Extension's five Grand Challenges (water, community vitality, health, developing tomorrow's leaders and global food systems) by engaging with program development committees and other community organizations and professionals.
  - b) Design appropriate educational strategies to engage clientele. These strategies might include delivering educational programming in a community-based setting, coordinating events and activities that provide experiential learning opportunities, using innovative technologies, providing individual educational consultations and facilitating groups seeking similar educational outcomes. Some overnight travel and evening and weekend work will be required.
  - c) Develop and implement strategies to expand the reach of educational programming to under-served audiences and to make certain K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider of educational programming.
  - d) Collect evidence of educational program impact.
  - e) Develop specialized knowledge and skills by engaging as a member of the Horticulture Program Focus Team.
3. Secure external funding such as grants, gifts and cost recovery to supplement local tax revenue to support and expand educational programming.
4. Serve as a member of the Johnson County team cooperating in the planning and delivery of county-wide programming and related events.

**QUALIFICATIONS**

Required:

- Bachelor's degree with knowledge of community food systems as evidenced by academic courses, professional development and/or professional experience.
- Evidence of strong academic and/or professional performance as documented by college transcripts, acceptance into a graduate program or documented success in increasingly responsible professional positions.
- Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with individuals, groups and through mass media.
- Leadership skills as evidenced by working with individuals, groups and co-workers.
- Access to a personal vehicle and the ability to obtain/maintain a valid driver's license.



Preferred:

- Master's Degree.
- Knowledge/experience in working with small to mid-size vegetable and fruit operations in a continuum from urban agricultural gardens to large-scale production farms.
- Knowledge/experience with Good Agricultural Practices and standards for growing, harvesting, packing and storage of produce for human consumption.
- Knowledge of and experience with the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act, particularly the Produce Safety Rule and/or other pertinent federal food safety legislation.
- Knowledge of the Cooperative Extension Service and the land grant university system.
- Experience working with adults and youth from various ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds.
- Commitment to personal professional development.
- Ability to utilize electronic communication and computer applications to fulfill programming responsibilities.
- Self-motivation and ability to work with a minimum of supervision, balancing multiple projects.
- Ability to design, promote, implement and evaluate educational programs.
- Skills in group facilitation.
- Knowledge of adult and youth teaching/learning processes.
- Experience in seeking and administering external grant funding.

#### **SALARY, BENEFITS, AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

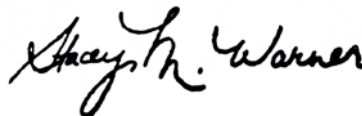
1. Salary commensurate with professional experience and available funding as negotiated by the area extension director, the local extension board and the applicant. The base starting salary is \$39,000 for a BS degree with no professional experience and \$42,000 for a MS degree with no professional experience.
2. Extension agents are Kansas State University educators and have the Board of Regents retirement plan, health and life insurance and vacation and sick leave. Depending on the date of hire there is a minimum of 30-day waiting period for health insurance. For a complete list of benefits see: <http://www.k-state.edu/hcs/benefits/overview/>
3. Reimbursement for travel related to achieving program objectives.
4. New agents are provided approximately 15 days of new agent professional development on the K-State campus during the first six to nine months. These 15 days are spread out in four different weeks. In addition, new agents spend at least three weeks with a mentor agent during the first year.

#### **APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

Submit application using the Kansas State University job application site: <http://careers.k-state.edu/cw/en-us/job/502582/johnson-county-community-food-systems-extension-agent>

For more information about the position, contact Stacey Warner, Leader, Ext Operations, 785-532-5790, or [swarner@ksu.edu](mailto:swarner@ksu.edu). To hear personal accounts from Extension Agents, preview videos at [www.ksre.k-state.edu/jobs](http://www.ksre.k-state.edu/jobs). For more information about K-State Research and Extension, visit: [www.ksre.k-state.edu](http://www.ksre.k-state.edu).

**EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:** Kansas State University is an Equal Opportunity Employer of individuals with disabilities and protected veterans and actively seeks diversity among its employees.



**Stacey M. Warner**  
Leader, Extension Operations

10/17/17  
Position #17-42

