KSRE Signature Program Guidelines

Providing educational programming that addresses the critical issues of Kansans is the most important goal for K-State Research and Extension. We have a long history of providing well-established programs that make significant, documented impacts that improve the lives, livelihoods and communities in Kansas.

The Signature Program effort is an intentional strategy to help KSRE better publicize the organization’s ability to carry out its mission. This effort will focus on establishing and promoting the impacts and relevance of KSRE to all Kansas residents, legislators, and key stakeholder groups to strengthen perceptions of Extension’s capacity to respond rapidly to critical needs and demonstrate significant impacts.

Signature Program status is not meant to negate other equally important Extension programs, but will serve as an opportunity to:

• Focus on the most relevant, timely, key issues via greater emphasis on in-depth program delivery and evaluation
• Capitalize on innovative ideas, materials, and/or methods
• Communicate significant impacts of KSRE statewide programs
• Elevate the status and perceptions of KSRE as a dynamic educational entity; and
• Promote high-quality Extension programming across the state.

Signature Programs and PFTs
Each Program Focus Team (PFT) will identify at least one (1) signature program that includes a comprehensive, team based program that has shown to be successful and replicable across the state. It may include a curriculum, leader’s guide, handouts and other program materials, etc, as appropriate. There should be consistent evaluation instrument(s) so that data may be aggregated at the end of the year. More specifically, a signature program meets the following criteria:

• involves collaborative effort between specialists and agents where agents have an active delivery role (beyond hosting event),
• addresses a critical need or issue relevant to a significant proportion of Kansans,
• offered in multiple locations in the state or targeted areas, as appropriate (i.e., cotton production areas),
• includes an evaluation tool in PEARs that assesses short, medium and/or long-term outcomes, and
• provides data to produce a Making a Difference report each year.
Signature Program Implementation Timeline for the 2019-2020 program year

8/1/19 PFTs submit at least one Signature Program Action Plan in PEARS (for this first year of Signature Programs, deadlines will be flexible)

10/1/19 Evaluation instrument related to the Signature Program Action Plan determined and entered into PEARS (for this first year of Signature Programs, deadlines will be flexible)

10/1/19 Implementation of new Signature Programs

10/1/19 Each extension agent identifies at least one Signature Program to implement (for this first year of Signature Programs, we will be flexible, but hope that as many as possible will do this)

11/1/20 PFT Leaders submit a Making a Difference Report for each signature program

In addition to Signature Programs, other PFT action plans include those for:

Core Programs
Ongoing, established programs that may or may not have an evaluation component. These programs have already been evaluated as effective and proven their value. The decision to continue to gather evaluation data will be up to the PFT.

Pilot Programs
Pilot programs are emerging programs in targeted sites that require time to test, improve and evaluate their effectiveness before they become core or signature program.

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