

Diverse Agronomy Learning Opportunities Across Kansas (Signature)

Situation

Optimizing learner needs can include program delivery in a variety of learning environments. Traditionally, Extension Agronomy programs have been delivered face-to-face to allow interaction, networking, and discovery. However, face-to-face programming may not always be possible, particularly in times of global health crises such as the current COVID-19 pandemic. In some situations, alternative methods may be more efficient, timely, and effective to serve the agriculture industry with research-based information. Therefore, "Hybrid learning" programming needs to be a major method, when possible, to continue our mission of delivering critical information to help producers make decisions in their cropping enterprises. Although not all locations may have access to high-speed broadband internet connections we are highly encouraged to facilitate "hybrid" learning opportunities.

Public Value

With participation in the "Diverse Agronomy Learning Opportunities" programming, participants will gain knowledge in a timely, safe, and convenient learning environment.

Outcomes

Short-Term (Knowledge): Crop producers in Kansas learn to identify diseases, control weeds and pests, be exposed to innovative production practices and other timely and relevant issues in Hybrid-learning opportunities which will complement face-to-face production schools, workshops and field days

Indicators

- Participants gain awareness and learn how to identify plant pests and the best management practices of control.
- Participants gain awareness and understanding of an integrated weed control management program.
- Participants increase awareness of innovative production practices in Hybrid-learning opportunities along with traditional in-person educational opportunities.
- Participants can receive timely and relevant information from KSRE, very quickly through Hybrid-learning opportunities and various social media platforms.

Medium-Term (Behavior): Crop producers in Kansas make more efficient and timely production decisions by having Extension materials available in Hybrid-learning along with traditional learning opportunities.

Indicators: From the information gained in Hybrid-learning--has it influenced your decision making of best management practices in disease, pest and weed control, and changed any management practices and behaviors?

Long-Term (Change in Condition): Crop producers in Kansas experience less financial volatility and more sustainability because of better access to Hybrid-learning opportunities that are researched based.

Indicators: Among participants who adopt information from the Hybrid-learning opportunities, how do these practices influence their profitability, sustainability, and environmental impact?

Outputs

- Agents/specialists will develop "Hybrid" agronomy programming including, but not limited to, Face-to-Face, Facebook LIVE programs, Video recordings, Streaming Facebook or ZOOM live programming along with Twitter and Instagram posts.
- The events may include weather conditions, insect or disease development, production practices, or any hot topic situations that may affect the success of the crop.
- A databank of video recordings will be initiated in Microsoft TEAMS to archive educational content on a variety of agronomic topics that can be used by any agent to share via social media or county/district website so agent/specialist expertise can be better accessed across Kansas.
- This Signature Program will provide an educational experience more geared towards producers and how they prefer to learn, who have not been well represented in traditional KSRE schools, workshops or field days.
- Fact sheets or printed material will also be published to provide the information for our clientele with limited or no Internet access.