

## 2022 Risk Management Skills for Kansas Women in Agriculture

### The Situation

According to USDA, there are 30,497 women producers in Kansas that farm over 19.6 million acres. K-State Research and Extension recognizes the importance of this demographic to the vitality of agriculture and rural communities across our state. The volatility in the farm economy highlighted a need for more education in risk management. This project specifically focused on teaching principles of crop insurance, crop marketing, government farm programs and calculating cost of production.

### What We Did

A four-part program was held from Jan. 12th to Feb. 9th where a keynote presentation was broadcasted from the K-State campus each Wednesday evening to 28 host locations across Kansas. Two-hundred and twenty-six participants enrolled in the series along with ninety-one KSRE extension agents who facilitated the local sites. Each night of the program a different risk management topic was discussed and local extension agents facilitated a hands-on case farm activity for participants to apply what they learned. Local speakers were also trained to give in-person presentations talking about family communication and farm stress. A bonus night highlighting similar risk management topics for beef cow/calf producers brought in an additional 114 participants along with most participants from the original series.



### Outcomes

Out of 160 evaluations that were returned, 102 ranked the program as "very valuable" with another 51 ranking it as "valuable". That is 96% of participants! Retrospective questions showed a knowledge gain in financial, human, legal, marketing, and production risk. Behavior change questions indicate 69% of participants plan to develop Enterprise budgets each year, 75% plan to analyze crop insurance products, 73% plan to develop a Marketing Plan, 76% plan to study farm programs (ARC/PLC) each year, 70% plan to implement stress reducing techniques, and 77% plan to use principles taught to improve family communication.

### Success Story

Testimonial feedback from post-evaluations is as follows. When asked what the best part of the program was:

- *Being able to be around other farmers and being at a local site.*

- *Getting a different point of view about all aspects from very known women.*
- *Real world examples- worksheets to do hands-on learning and calculations.*
- *All of the information. Very pin-pointed to real-world farm-life.*
- *Being able to attend these sessions with my wife and cross learning the different parts of the farming operations we have each done separately in the past.*
- *Being in a comfortable environment while learning new things.*
- *Bringing women into the limelight and helping to develop the knowledge and confidence to be a more knowledgeable and bigger voice on the farm.*
- *Robin & LaVell are so supportive & exude confidence in us. They are so knowledgeable, yet present the information in an easy to understand manner.*
- *Having Robin & Lavell teach us. Love their ability to take difficult subjects & make it easy to understand.*
- *Thank you for this essential knowledge. It definitely will improve my understanding of our farm. This course has helped my confidence in farming decisions.*
- *This was a great series that I'll encourage others to make it a priority to attend.*

## **Contact**

**Robin Reid**, Extension Associate

Department of Agricultural Economics

324A Waters Hall

Manhattan, KS 66506

785.532.0964 | [robinreid@ksu.edu](mailto:robinreid@ksu.edu)

**LaVell Winsor**, Farm Analyst

785.220.5451 | [lwinsor@ksu.edu](mailto:lwinsor@ksu.edu)