Grand Challenge: Global Food Systems, Health, Developing Tomorrow’s Leaders

Title: Master Food Volunteers

Why is this issue important?
The Master Food Volunteer (MFV) program allows Extension Agents to expand their foods and nutrition program and reach a larger audience and give K-State Research and Extension a broader presence in their communities. Statewide, the MFV program is active in eight local units with a total of 14 counties.

How did Extension address this issue?
Volunteers provide education in the following ways:

- Nutrition education at Headstart schools and health fairs
- Teaching Cooking 101 classes
- Helping with Foods judging at County Fair
- Planning and teaching classes for Ag Day program at local schools
- Answering food questions for county Rapid Response hotline
- Writing news stories on various food topics
- Conducting recipe testing for upcoming classes
- Farmers Market display on fruits and vegetables
- Senior adult exercise classes
- Youth camp on edible science
- Teaching safe home food preservation

What was the impact?
In 2014, MFV reported 5,071 hours of volunteer time in their communities. This equals a value of $105,882 based on the Independent Sector’s Value of Volunteer Time for Kansas as $20.88/hour for 2013.

Volunteers are dedicated to this program in many ways. Their passion for education and teaching about food is very evident in their work.