PDC Bio's

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Andres Blanco – Dodge City

About me: Former 4-H member. Works at the Kansas Grain Inspection Service.

Experiences: Current President of the Rotary club and has been a previous PDC member.

Todd Durler – Dodge City

About me: Former 4-H'er, who is now a teacher/coach at Spearville High School.

Experiences: Currently a Fair Board member and Extension Executive Board member. Has served as a PDC member previously.

Kurt Peintner – Spearville

About me: I farm and ranch south of Spearville.

Experiences: I have used K-State Extension to gain licenses to spray and to gain information on new government programs.

Goals: Help improve programs and share the information with others. Show people what a great tool extension can be.

PDC Bio's

Community Vitality

Chelsea Deges – Dodge City

About me: I currently work for Midwest Mixer Service. I have been involved with extension in the past. I have also help with judging at the fair. I am also very involved with Dodge City Roundup.

Experiences: I have been involved with 4-H in the past.

Goals: My goals for extension would be to grow the programs and get more people involved. I like to be involved with the community.

Karen Rader – Dodge City

About me: I was born and raised in Dodge City. I have gone to the fairs in the past, I worked for Dodge City Chamber of Commerce and worked for Boothill part time for 8 years. I have worked many places in Dodge and been involved.

Experiences: I think it is awesome what they provide. Especially for our youth.

Goals: To continue what they are doing and even better.

Heather Trent – Dodge City

About me: Currently I am a Tourism Coordinator with emphasis on event logistic planning. Events such as Parade of Lights, mayor's Tree lighting Ceremony, Snowball Drop, Concert in the Park during Founder's Weekend, and many others. I also own and run a local massage therapy business operating as Grounded Mind & Body.

Experiences: Through my work in tourism and event planning I have worked with local organizations to coordinate events and connect people with resources. I am also a former PDC member

Goals: I would like to see continued collaboration with local organizations to identify needs and develop solutions that support community vitality.

PDC Bio's

Family and Consumer Sciences

Sherry Askew – Dodge City

About me: I teach culinary and baking at the high school. I helped with 4-H when my children where in it. I serve on church boards.

Experiences: I helped with 4-H when my children where in 4-H. I have served on the PDC board before.

Goals: Expand programming

Julie Ellis – Bucklin

About me: Retired from Farm Service Agency. Was on PDC in previous term. Secretary for the Dodge City Community Concerts. Bible study facilitator at Bucklin Bible Fellowship Church.

Experiences: With FSA, gave customer service presentations to offices within Kansas, for the adult staff.

Goals: Reaching more young adults. It seems a lot is geared towards children and seniors.

Jean Ann Melia – Dodge City

About me: Retired farm wife. Previous PDC board member. I have helped with county fair judging.

Experiences: Previous FCE member until our group disbanded.

Goals: Keeping it viable and functional for people who need help with families, home and personal growth.

Nancy Nichols – Dodge City

About me: I am a retired Surgical Technologist. I am active in church, a Gail Ministry since 2022, serving aging, sick and shut-ins. I also am the coordinator of Diaper Drivers for the DCPS.

Experiences: In school, I was active in 4-H and held the office of Secretary for my 4-H club for many years. We were a top club in Gray County. Show in open class at the Ford County Fair.

Goals: Reaching out with programs on aging, health and fitness, and nutrition.

Vickie Williamson – Dodge City

About me: I work part time after 25 years with the city. I am still involved with several organizations including Women's Chamber, Holy Cross Lutheran, City of Dodge City and Keep America Beautiful. Have been on this board previously, involved with the Ford County Fair helping grand children and check in with entries on fair day, ect.

Experiences: I was responsible for maintaining a rose garden with 125 bushes and used guidance from K-State office in Topeka for diseases that affected the bushes.

Goals: Increasing the envelopment of the community.

PDC Bio's

4-H and Youth Development

Ashley Fischer – Wright

About me: I am a Veterinarian and Rancher in Ford County. For the past 2 years I have served on the 4-H PDC and extension executive boards. This past year I was elected president of the Ford County extension executive board.

Experiences: I worked with the youth as a 4-H trap shooting sports coach this past year. I also enjoy helping kids in the community with their livestock projects.

Goals: My goals include increasing awareness about extension programs, increase the number of youth involved in 4-H and continuing to build relevant extension programs for our community.

Kami Martin – Bucklin

About me: I enjoy being involved in the livestock industry. My husband and I own and operate Martin Genetics, where we are dedicated to raising quality pigs and supporting youth involved in livestock and agriculture. I studied Agriculture Communications and Journalism. I was a member of the collegiate livestock judging and meat animal evaluation teams at both Kansas State University and Hutchinson Community College.

Experiences: My experience with adult and youth educational programs comes from several different perspectives, beginning with my own involvement in 4-H as a youth. Through 4-H, I experienced firsthand the values of hands-on learning, mentorship, leadership development and the opportunities Extension programs provide to young people. I later had the opportunity to serve as an Agriculture Extension Agent, which allowed me to experience Extension education from the professional side and better understand its role in connecting research, resources and practical knowledge with the people and communities it serves. Additionally, coaching a collegiate livestock judging team has given me valuable experience in developing educational opportunities for young adults. This role allowed me to mentor students, teach technical skills, encourage critical thinking and help them grow in confidence both inside and outside the classroom. Together these experiences have given me an appreciation for education at every stage of life. They have reinforced my belief in the importance of hands-on, relationship-driven learning and the lasting impact that strong educational programs, mentorships, and community involvement can have on individuals and the agricultural industry

Goals: Increase community involvement and visibility, strengthen youth development opportunities, support and grow local agriculture, expand adult education and lifelong learning, and build stronger community partnerships.

Ruth Morton – Wright

About me: Currently highly involved in church and within the community. A former 4-H Club Leader. Had children involved in 4-H. Was a past member of Friendship Meals Board.

Experiences: Current Fair Board member and past PDC member.

Cassie Sanko – Spearville

About me: I have worked in Extension for 23 years, with almost 20 of those years in Ford County. I am a past 4-H member of the Happy Hustlers 4-H Club. I currently serve on the 4-H/Youth Development PDC. I also serve on the Faith Formation and am Vice President of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Spearville. I am also the past Regent and Recording Secretary for the St. Vincent de Paul daughters of Isabella Circle. I am a member of both Ford County and Edwards County Historical Societies.

Experiences: In the past, I have participated in the Master Gardener classes, attended various FCS education programs, and assisted with multiple 4-H and youth development activities; Cloverbuds, Holiday, Food Box assembly, Youth Education trips, etc. As well as taught religion classes for 10+ years, participated in library book club and church Bible study classes. I also take continuing education classes as available.

Goals: I would like to see Extension be a staple in Ford County communities that its citizens turn to for education and research-based information. I would like to see more involvement in our school systems and a stronger presence in our current social media culture. Our current Extension staff has years of knowledge and know-how that the community should see as a resource available to all.