

# *Districting* Solutions



Atchison, Brown and Doniphan County K-State Research and Extension Offices are in the process of forming a district. Creating a district will ensure our residents have access to impactful programs and services. District funding leverages economies of scale, reducing administrative overhead and maximizing taxpayer dollars.

Extension is part of a nationwide educational and outreach network created in 1914. Extension has adapted to the changing times to improve the livelihoods and quality of life of residents. There is an Extension Office in virtually all of the 3,000 counties across the US.

According to the 2023 Annual Report for every dollar invested in Extension, there is a \$17 return to the Kansas Economy.

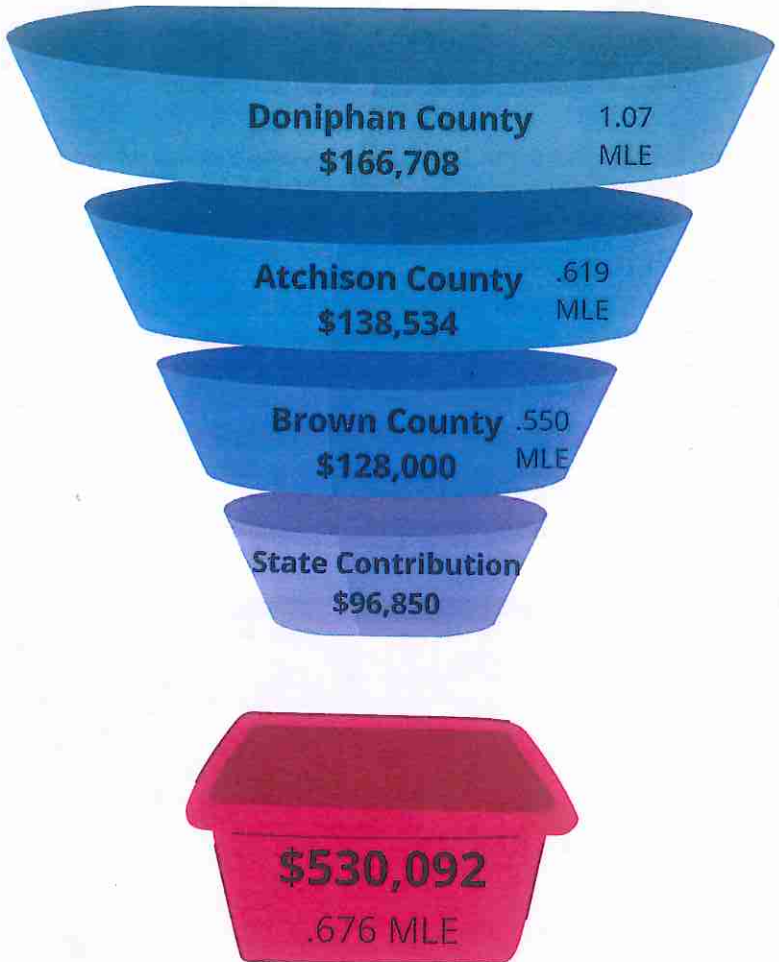
## Benefits of Districting

- Reallocates the cost of Cooperative Extension for taxpayers.
- Reduces duplication of services and increases employee efficiency.
- Minimizes administrative costs and duplication of office operations.
- Increases outreach and expands the use of volunteers across all areas of programming.
- Makes Extension nimble in addressing local issues.

# Financials

## District Budget

The state's contribution would increase by filling two open positions.



Using 2024 local Unit Appropriation Numbers

\*Extension Mill Levy Equivalent (MLE)

# Northeast KS Extension Snapshot

- 19 Total 4-H Clubs with 476 total 4-Hers Enrolled
- County and Regional Club Day Events - Public Speaking Contest
- Cloverbud Day Camps - 60 future 4-Hers Reached Annually
- Master Gardener Programs - Advanced Horticulture Training for Adults
- 4-H Livestock Showmanship Series
- Agriculture Programs (Women in Ag, Sheep & Goat, Cattle, Crops, etc.)
- Manage Walk Kansas Statewide Program
- Stay Strong Stay Healthy Program - Strength Training for older adults
- FCE Groups - Provide Resources and Support
- Annual County-Wide Earth Day Events - All area Grade School-age Kids
- Annual Babysitting Clinic - Average 60 youths each year participate
- 4-H Fall Invite / 4-H Day Camps - Exposes Grade School youth to 4-H
- Klinefelter Crop and Forage Research Plots and Variety Test Plots
- Mesonet Weather Station
- Teach STEM Lessons - At Area Libraries and Boys and Girls Clubs
- Teach weekly Lessons at Boys and Girls Afterschool Programs
- Supervise Corn, Soybean, and Wheat yield Contest entries
- Teach Monthly Wildlife Adventure Program at the Library
- Teach Monthly STEM Lessons at Homeschool Co-op
- Work alongside Fair Boards to Manage County Fairs
- Chaperone and Transport youth at Discovery Days, Citizenship in Action, and Kansas Youth Leadership Forum.
- Transport Projects and work at the Kansas State Fair
- Horticulture and Food Safety Training for Produce Growers



**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

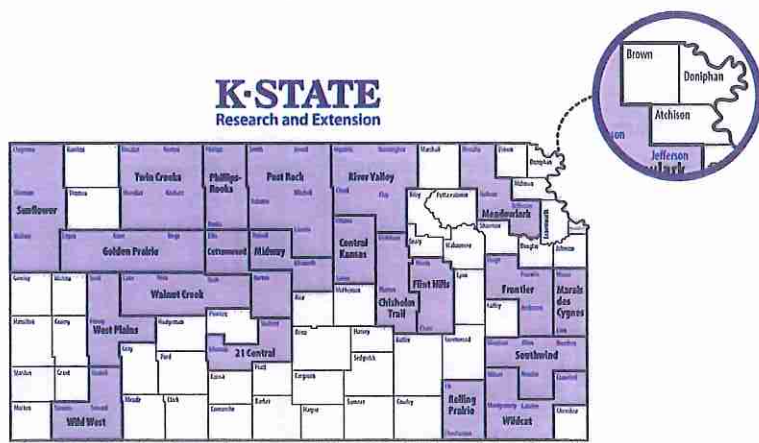


## Quick Facts on Districting

- County financials will continue to be reviewed monthly by the Elected District Board and the K-State Accounting Office. The district will conduct a comprehensive audit of all financials on a yearly basis.
- All three county office locations will remain open.
- Residents will retain control over local programs. Program Development Committees (PDC) for each county will continue to advise staff on local educational and programmatic needs.
- All staff members will remain employed.

## Quick Facts for 4-H

- County Fairs will remain unchanged, as each County Fair Association is responsible for managing fair events.
- County 4-H Events may be combined when feasible and beneficial for our youth, such as during Club Days and Project Meetings.
- With districting we will be able to hire a 4-H Youth Development Agent to increase 4-H programming within the three counties.



**July 2024**  
21 districts and 46 county units



I am in favor of consolidating Atchison, Brown and Doniphan counties into an Extension District. It is my understanding that there are already some shared events between these counties already. It just makes sense to collaborate staffing to attract or retain high caliber talent to run these programs and spread the costs over a larger audience. It is a struggle in rural areas to find competent and qualified help to efficiently run these organizations. I have firsthand experience of the positive effects that collaboration provides within organizations. I am a current board member of Amberwell Hiawatha, which worked with Amberwell Atchison to create an affiliation agreement where the two hospitals can share some services and operating contracts that have been beneficial to both organizations. It is my hope that the same can be true for consolidating Extension for these three counties. – Greg Rodvelt – Horton KS

**The Extension Service provides a link between applied research, education, and awareness from our universities and the consuming public. It is a welcome and needed bridge. Districting would provide a pathway to have more specialists vs. generalists' agents and would enable the Extension Service to continue to live out their mission. - Mark Jirak – Cummings KS**

I believe [districting] would be highly beneficial for all communities to share resources, fostering expanded friendships and greater opportunities to exchange knowledge and experiences. The Extension/4-H program is fantastic for lifelong learning. Both of my kids have enjoyed 11 years in 4-H, and they are grateful for the opportunities and experiences it has provided. - Charlotte Rathert – Lancaster KS

**There are several reasons I support the formation of an Extension district comprised of Doniphan, Brown, and Atchison counties. There has already been collaboration between these agents for shared adult programming and for 4-H events. The ability to work as a team has already begun. I know from my work experience that working as a team is stronger than working alone. Individual strengths combine for a**

**stronger unit. Varied experiences and areas of expertise make for a stronger foundation. Being part of a larger team should also help attract and retain new Extension agents. Because districting is not a new concept, groundwork for such is already in place. There should be fewer growing pains now compared to several years ago. These three counties are similar enough and they should be compatible in this process. Change can feel uncertain and sometimes anticipated as a loss, but my experience is that most change can result in something becoming even stronger than before. - Joyce Rush – Highland, KS**

The Loess hills of Doniphan County make up what are arguably the best soils in the state of Kansas. Its capacity to grow almost any crop from grains to produce, to timber and forages is unrivaled in most of our state. However, as farming practices evolve, rural communities constrict, and leadership programs for our youth are limited. It is imperative we search for better ways to not only offer programs, but to look for expertise rather than general knowledge. Therefore, I think it is an essential endeavor to explore the benefits of combining our three most NE counties into a single KSU extension district. Having traveled extensively around the world for agriculture, I have seen firsthand the benefits of agricultural extension and the shortcomings of where it doesn't exist. Combining Atchison, Brown and Doniphan counties would combine the strengths of each individual county and allow that knowledge to be shared throughout the district. - Thad Geiger – Troy, KS

**Hearing the possibility of combining Atchison, Brown and Doniphan Extension units as an Extension District is excellent news! The creation of a district will enhance our Extension units to be better able to provide more opportunities for our youth. There are so many 4-H opportunities for kids today and joining forces will open more doors for this to happen. Plus having even more resources for the kids as well as parents and leaders to tap into. While we are close in proximity, county wise, I feel like each county can bring something unique to the program. - Selena Smith - Fanning KS**