

## **What is KSRE/Butler County?**

Submitted by: David Kehler, County Extension Director/Agriculture Agent

K-State Research and Extension/Butler County is your connection to the Land Grant University. Our role is to provide research based education to the residents of Butler County. We are a cooperative effort between the U.S. Department of Ag, Kansas State University, and Butler County.

In 1862, Congress created the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the land-grant universities. In 1914 the Cooperative Extension Service was added.

In 1915 the Kansas Legislature passed the Farm Bureau Act to provide for an extension educational program to be conducted in each county. The county extension council is a legally constituted part of the Cooperative Extension Service and, through it, a part of Kansas State University.

### ***Your Butler County Extension Agents:***

#### ***David Kehler - Director and Agricultural Agent***

David came to Butler County in 1980 in the 4-H position after serving in that position in Douglas and Cherokee counties. In 1994, he moved to the Agriculture agent position and assumed Director responsibilities in 2003. While his responsibilities include a wide range of agriculture education subjects, his specialties include: Farm Management; focusing on Ag lease arrangements and an interpretation of Ag Lease law, Small acreage management; focusing on a managed grazing program for horses, forage production; specializing in brome management and Electronic Animal I.D. technology.

#### ***Larry Crouse - Horticulture Agent***

Larry started in Extension as the Horticulture Agent in Muskogee, OK. He came to his current position in Butler County in 1993. Larry focuses on three main areas in his work here in Butler County.

- **The Butler County Master Gardener Program** - The Master Gardener program has trained over 120 people since its inception here, with a vibrant core of volunteers that plan, plant and maintain the Butler County Extension Demonstration Garden.
- **Homeowner Healthy Yard and Landscape Management** - Larry's homeowner programs reach a diverse audience.
- **Youth Horticulture Programs** - Butler County youth have participated and won horticulture judging contests at every level, local, state and even a National Championship in 2006.

#### ***Barbara Roths - Family and Consumer Science Agent***

Since 1978, Barb has worked as a dietitian in community-based nutrition and activity programs and joined the Butler County Extension Office in 2008. She enjoys offering sessions to a variety of audiences on making healthy foods easy to prepare, affordable, and tasty, as well as family resources management. Some FCS programs include: *Walk Kansas; Cook Once - Enjoy!; Spend Smart, Eat Well; Pick a Better Snack – Fruits, Vegetables, Whole Grains; Let's Get Healthy with Herbs.*

**4-H Youth Agent** - This position is currently vacant. 4-H Youth Development Agents develop and deliver educational programming relative to building life skills in children and teens, including a positive self concept, an inquiring mind, a concern for the community, healthy interpersonal relationships and sound decision making. Butler County has 12 Community 4-H Clubs for youth ages 7-19, a Cloverbuds program for 5-6 year olds and a growing Shooting Sports program.