

Bluestem Breezes
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A Busy Summer, Indeed

It's good to be back here visiting with you via a column again. This column may be a little sentimental and out of my comfort zone, and that's likely why it took so long to write.

I took a "holiday" over the summer months so that Person D could join our mix. Of course she spent hours already in the garden and the feed truck! Would you imagine it would be any different? Person C adores her and Persons A and B are holding on for dear life these days.

I hope that if you had the opportunity to contact the Extension Office over the summer, you noticed little to no change in service. We worked hard to make sure the other ladies were prepared for my absence and able to direct your questions to nearby ag agents and specialists. Do know that I am back now full time here at the office on the first floor of the Courthouse and I certainly welcome your visits.

This summer was a special one for me, for several reasons. Yes, adding a fourth person to the family topped the list! But, also I celebrated my 9th anniversary as Wabaunsee County Ag Agent during the County Fair, just the place where it all began.

I was honored to receive the Achievement Award during the National Association of County Agricultural Agents' meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah. The award is presented to two agents in Kansas each year based upon involvement and impact in their community, and is voted on by peers. It was an honor indeed to receive and display the plaque in my office.

While in Utah, I was surprised to learn of a second award. The Wabaunsee County Farm Bureau Association presented me the John Gehrt Friend of Ag Award during their Annual Meeting. I was so humbled to receive this from friends and colleagues. Stop by and see the beautiful photograph of Wabaunsee County I received!

I love Extension work and making an impact here in Wabaunsee County. Recognition isn't ever on my radar, which is likely what makes these awards so meaningful to me. I hope you all know how impactful you are in my life, and in my work. Thank you for using Extension services, for providing feedback on the programming, and for challenging me to learn and grow so that I may continuously evolve both ag and 4-H programs here locally.

Now, keep an eye out! I am planning winter ag meetings and future columns. The ag economy definitely has room to grow; I plan to focus more efforts this winter on the financial sector and aiding you in that arena. Also, we are just off of National 4-H Week which means the new 4-H year is beginning. This program is 180 youth strong and continues to grow. If you aren't involved as a family or volunteer, we have a place for you! Join us!