

Total contact reach
153,936

Total dollar value of service
\$3.9 million

Total volunteer hours
129,483

Total pounds
of produce donated
65,476

Total continuing
education hours
20,673

Total social media reach
12,421

Total number of volunteers
1,684

Total new trainees
243

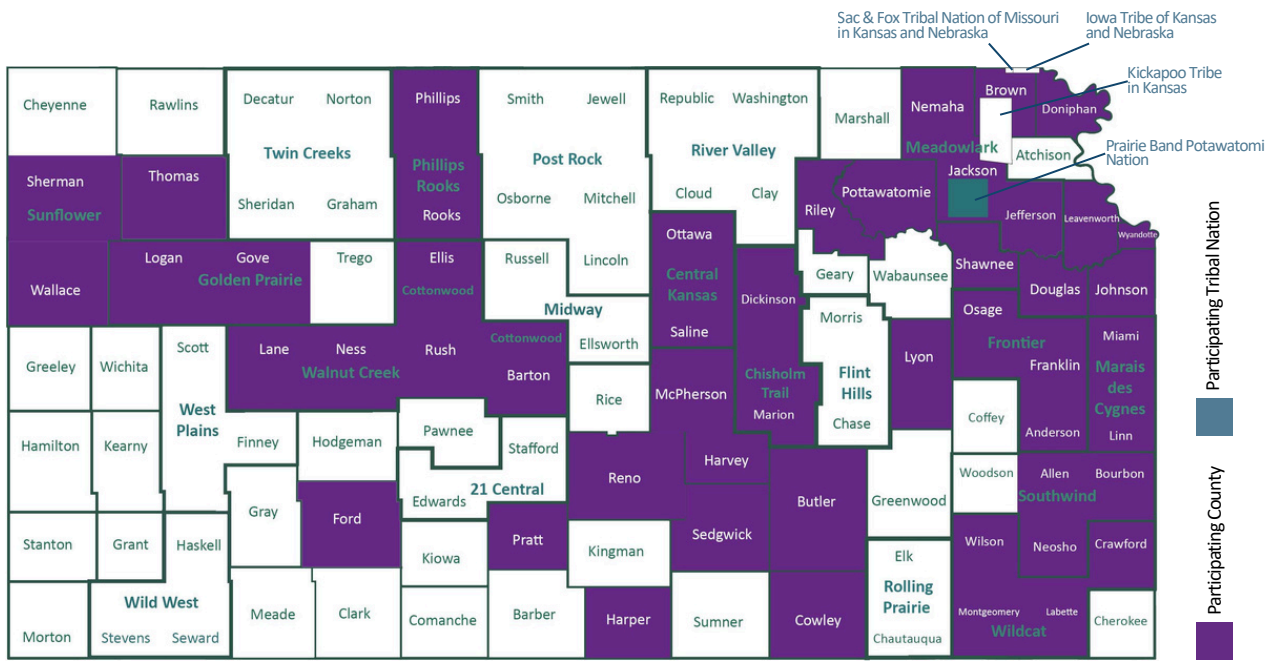
Total number of counties
50



Growing Extension Master Gardeners in Kansas

In 2025, Master Gardener programs were active in 50 of 105 Kansas counties and 1 tribal nation.

New volunteers were trained by 1 tribal nation and 27 local Extension units, representing 37% of Kansas counties.



Community Projects

Growing Connections

Western Kansas

The Cottonwood District Extension Master Gardener program partnered with the Great Bend Public Library to host a community seed swap that quickly grew into something more. The event was made possible through a collaboration with the Conservation District and a generous seed donation to the Victory Garden of Barton County. Volunteers shared seeds with residents while also helping launch the library's new community seed library.



The event sparked renewed energy around the Victory Garden project and highlighted the need for a more accessible space. That momentum led to the donation of a centrally located lot by Larry and Marilyn Kopke in memory of their daughter, Cheryl L Reinhardt, creating new opportunities for growth. Today, a new community garden is taking shape to expand access to fresh food, hands-on learning, and community connection.

Giving Garden Impact

Central Kansas



For twenty-five years, the Harvey County Extension Master Gardener program has strengthened the community through volunteer service and gardening education. One of its most impactful projects is the Giving Garden at St. Matthew's in Newton, where volunteers grow fresh produce for donation to the Salvation Army. Each year, the garden yields approximately 3,000–6,000 pounds of vegetables to help support local families experiencing food insecurity. Over the life of the project, this collaboration has donated more than 80,000 pounds of produce in the community.

Working alongside the volunteers is Scott Eckert, Horticulture Agent in Harvey County, who supports the program's outreach and educational efforts. Together, they share research-based horticulture knowledge while providing fresh food and meaningful service that benefits the entire community.

Seeds of Community

Eastern Kansas

Meadowlark District Extension helped initiate a collaborative project with the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Master Gardeners, several Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation partners and the Kansas Alliance for Tribal Community Health to grow and distribute 3,000 seedlings to the community. Guided by community input and supported by a \$6,000 grant, the project focused on providing plants people want to grow while strengthening local food systems.



Volunteers cared for the seedlings daily, ensuring their success from greenhouse to garden. The effort reached more than 150 people during an Earth Day event, with additional seedlings shared with other tribal nations across Kansas. With strong community support, the project will continue to grow, expanding into seed saving and the development of a tribal seed bank.