

Healthy environments

We believe in protecting the environment and it shows in our history, in our programs and, most importantly, in the citizens we serve.

- ▶ **Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City.** More than 12,900 people in Jackson County benefit from the horticulture education provided by 224 active Master Gardeners. These university-trained volunteers donated more than 16,126 hours in service in 2005. The Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City hosted the 2005 State Master Gardener Conference providing education to over 300 Master Gardeners across the state.
- ▶ **Master Gardener's Hotline.** Volunteers answered 2,200 hot line calls providing unbiased, research-based information on home gardening topics.
- ▶ **Soil tests.** Samples were submitted for laboratory testing by 367 consumers, commercial horticulturists and farmers. This on-going service provides the knowledge people need to maintain their soil in an environmentally and economically sound manner.
- ▶ **Technical support.** Specialists helped local vegetable and fruit farmers increase their knowledge of cultural methods and integrated pest management. Twenty-one 1-on-1 field and phone consultations occurred regarding forage production, cropping systems, pest management, pond management, and home horticulture. The Jackson Co. Center served as a resource center, in which producers and homeowners were provided information and data regarding soil analysis, plant disease identification, plant and insect identification, and forage analysis.
- ▶ **Private Pesticide Applicator Training.** Thirty agriculture commodities producers completed the extension training needed to apply pesticides in a safe, effective and environmentally responsible manner.
- ▶ **Housing and Environmental Design.** In 2005, more than 1,000 housing and environmental design consumer questions and requests for information were answered through telephone calls, office visits and printed information, including guide sheets and other educational resources. Specific topics included indoor air quality concerns with emphasis on mildew and moisture control. Energy management, interior space planning, housing repair, furniture selection and carpet selection were other common topics of inquiries.
- ▶ **Extension InfoNet: extensioninfonet.org.** This web-based resource provides 450 questions and answers to everyday concerns for consumers and is accessible 24 hours a day. Extension InfoNet is a joint project with Kansas State University Research and Extension and is in its sixth year of imple-

