Bushels for Backpacks

**Program Area:** Education and Ag Promotion (EAP)

**County Farm Bureau:** Rooks County Farm Bureau

**State:** KS

**Membership Category:** 0-1,000

**Year:** 2014

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**Program Description:**

Bushels for Backpacks is a grain pledge program designed to raise funds for the Food-4-Kids program and local food pantries in Rooks County, Kansas. Food-4-Kids is a school-based program designed for schools to receive food for students who are experiencing food and nutrition insecurity. The Bushels for Backpacks program helps to contribute to the Food-4-Kids fund in three different public schools and three different food banks in the county.

This volunteer friendly activity is something that almost every farmer in the community can participate in. All that is needed is for a farmer to designate some of the grain they sell at the local grain elevator to the Bushels for Backpacks account. When the grain is sold, the funds then get transferred to the Food-4-Kids program and area food pantries.

The program started with a goal to raise 200 bushels of grain. It was determined that the food packets could be purchased for students for $5.00 a week per student. As word spread about the program, the Land O' Lakes company and a local grain elevator, Midland Marketing, generously provided an additional grant and matching dollars to support the Bushels for Backpacks program.

The results of the initiative grew beyond the Rooks County Farm Bureau's expectations. Between June of 2012 and February 1, 2013, 436 bushels of wheat, sorghum and soybeans were donated. In addition to grain, many also made financial contributions. Overall, a total of $11,809 was raised through Bushels for Backpacks.