Karen Ramage – bio

A native of Henderson County Kentucky, Karen grew up on a tobacco and cattle farm in the Cairo Community. She developed an early appreciation for Extension by attending Extension Homemakers with her mother, both grandmothers and great grandmother. She grew up in an Extension family and went to 4-H camp at the age of 7, attending every year throughout elementary, high school and college. Karen participated in many 4-H projects over the years and was a National winner in the 4-H Dairy Foods Project. It was through this early Extension experience where she became interested in a career in Extension.

Karen’s first Extension job was a 4-H Camp staffer working as a recreation director at West Kentucky 4-H Camp. Also, during her college years she gained additional experience as a summer intern in Union County.

In 1973, Karen graduated from the University of Kentucky, College of Home Economics with a BS degree in Nutrition and Food Sciences. 6 Days after graduation went to work as the Home Economics Agent in Livingston County, which was then a two agent county. In 1976, the Livingston County Fiscal Court voted for and Extension Tax and this allowed an expansion of the program to 3 agents.

While working as a Home Economics Agent, Karen attended and graduated from North Carolina State University with a Master’s Degree in Adult and Community College Education with an emphasis in Extension and Volunteer Leader Development.

When the Green River Area Director became available, Karen was fortunate to be able to fill this position and return to her home area to work. A few years later, Re-Envisioning of the Extension Service became a reality and Karen was assigned the new role of District Director for District 7.

Karen is currently the Director of Kentucky Cooperative Extension County Operations. Her administrative responsibilities include: working with Extension District Boards, providing leadership to Program and Staff Development, Human Resources Personnel and serving on the Statewide Administrative Team.