EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE

Changing Lives

IN BUTLER COUNTY

Extension provides practical education you can trust by helping individuals, families, businesses, and communities solve problems, develop skills, and build a better future.

The Butler County Cooperative Extension Service is a wonderful educational tool for everyone in the community to utilize. From the beginning, the Extension Service has provided research-based knowledge that is useful for people to improve their lives, their homes, and their communities. Our programs reach far and wide. Our hands-on approach with teaching, not only delivers useful knowledge, but allows our agents, staff, members and volunteers to really connect with each other and reach out to all clientele. Our agents work together on providing information on nutrition, reliable farm practices, money management, and safety for all youth and adults, to providing our clients with the leadership skills needed in all levels of business, community, and life. We take pride in serving a diverse community, and developing close ties to all our clientele. With reflection on the past year, we have continued to strive to provide educational programs and information to all community members. Our efforts to provide local and community Extension events have provided wonderful opportunities to reach a vast audience, to even further extend our clientele. We hope that you will enjoy learning about the highlighted programs in this report. Whatever your needs, the Butler County Cooperative Extension Service takes pride in serving you.

Priority Program Efforts

A total of 143 people are now involved in addressing significant community issues

32 youth made an impact in their community through service projects
6 local residents implemented practices that promote sustainable agriculture
1 Producers reported an economic impact (i.e., increase in agricultural productivity, increase in higher returns, decrease in expenses) in their agricultural operations
59 youth indicated an increase in leadership skills, knowledge or confidence through participation in Extension-related leadership programs
821 citizens (youth & adults) acknowledged utilizing the skills learned through Extension programming

A total of 297 individuals reported making lifestyle changes (diet, exercise, managing stressors, healthy home practices, etc.) for the purpose of improving their health

A total of 709 youth and adults demonstrated informed and effective decision-making skills

143 individuals incorporated new or additional conservation practices.
AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES

2014 has been a successful year for Butler County adult agriculture education. During the crop planning and growing season webinars were offered on grain production and farm management. These webinars are offered state wide, but are organized by the Butler and Simpson County Ag. Agents.

The Extension Field Day was held in Reedyville, KY, on the Farris Farm, this year. It had demonstrations on back grinding cattle, cattle health, a tmr wagon, beef nutrition, a discussion on the Stockman’s Association and the cattle sale, a craft project, using local foods, and displays.

We offered programs about maple syrup production, gardening, and distributed information about using and producing local foods.

In March, the Extension Service assisted the Butler County Stockman’s Association in holding their fourth livestock sale. The sale was well attended reaching buyers from several counties. The group sold $60,000 of cattle in an hour. All the labor for the event was volunteer.

We have identified many plants and plant diseases for clients. We also send insects to UK for identification. Many of these identifications are completed using digital technology and are completed the same day. We have helped people with manure analysis, silage and forage testing, testing for nitrate toxicity, lagoon water, and even pond water testing.

The Extension Service provides farm and home visits to address individual needs. This year I have visited community members for sick landscape plants, greenhouse problems, beef cattle farms, crop fields, forage fields, and more.

Sustainable Agriculture in Butler County

The Extension Service continues to support an active beekeeping club, the Green River Swarmcatchers. Two different classes were taught on producing maple syrup. A beginning beekeeping workshop will begin in December.

Economic Development through Extension

Butler County’s entrepreneurial coaching team has coached 22 businesses, and the Morgantown/Butler County Small Business Incubator program has another ongoing project. A local real estate company opened an office in Morgantown after working with a UK trained coach.

Our Rural Development Association has operated for 56 years. This valuable group has club meetings in four Rural Development communities each month. This community capacity is unique to our county.

Leadership Development for the Community

The Extension Service continues to work on leadership development. Extension offered leadership development training and worked on volunteerism for our County Extension Council during the spring meeting. Butler County has a very rich history of great volunteers, but we are always trying to develop more.

We also provide service work in leadership development. Community members seek Extension advice on by-laws and parliamentary procedure. Clients become more aware of Robert’s Rules of Order and can run effective meetings.

The Motivating and Educating Agriculture Leaders program was offered. Butler County had 2 people graduate. Congratulations to Tracy Coleman and Lance Lockhart. Past MEAL participants are currently serving on the Extension Council, local Stockman’s board, Farm Bureau board, and the KY Forage and Grassland Council. Members of our Extension Council are also serving on the Morgantown City Council and the Butler County Fiscal Court.

Natural Resources

This year, we offered private pesticide applicator training. We also organize and conduct the Southern Kentucky Commercial Pesticide Applicator training. This allowed local commercial license holders to get continuing education credits without traveling long distances and paying for overnight lodging.
FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Diabetes Education

Partnering with the National Diabetes Education Program through the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases National Institutes of Health, the Barren River District Health Department, Butler County Family Care Clinic, King Drugs and the Lions Club, a Diabetes Education Fair was conducted with 45 participants. Participants were given the opportunity to discuss their medications with the pharmacist, receive information about diabetic shoes, supplies, and products to assist with their diabetic care, and become more knowledgeable of proper dietary practices for healthier eating and controlling their diabetes.

![Mary Joe Franklin talks to the pharmacist about her medications at the Diabetes Education Fair.](image)

Nurturing Families

Parenting workshops were delivered to two rehabilitation facilities and to Head Start parents, impacting over 50 people. Families learned strategies to reduce barriers to communication, facilitate behavior change, acquire new parenting skills for multiple age groups, conflict resolution and decision making.

“I want you to know that the parenting classes inspired both my mother and I to be better people in general and defiantly taught me to be a better parent by giving me tools to cope with the wants and needs of a demanding child. “

Brittany, Mother of 4

Plate It Up

Promoting local foods using “Plate It Up, Kentucky Proud” has provided opportunities for over 200 participants to sample ways to use seasonal fruits and vegetables and encourage the purchase of local products from local producers. Participants were also given the opportunity to prepare the recipes from the “Plate It Up, Kentucky Proud” recipes.

![Charlotte Hunt and Tammy Alford work together to prepare Fresh Corn Salad, a Plate It Up, Kentucky Proud recipe.](image)

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Conferences and Camps

Conferences, camps, and other overnight/multi-day programs are outstanding learning opportunities for young people. Many age specific camps and conferences are held every year. This year, Butler County had an excellent turnout with participation in: 4-H Summer Camp—89 youth, 4-H Summit—7 youth, Issues Conference—6 youth, West KY Teen Retreat—11 youth, and Teen Conference—12 youth.

4-H and Hunter Education

In the 1980s when 4-H Shooting Sports was just getting started, we started surveying Butler County 4-H youth about access to firearms and firearms safety. Our research revealed that 96% of Butler County youth either had a firearm in their home or were in the home of a friend or relative once per week or more frequently. Additionally, the Sheriff was able to recall 6 fatal firearm accidents within the previous 20 years. As an introduction to the 4-H Shooting Sports program, we started teaching our 6th graders the KY Hunters Education Course. The course is part of the approved Natural Resources 4-H materials as well as 4-H Shooting Sports program. The course has garnered a great deal of positive feed back from school administrators, teachers, parents and students. This year, 151 youth were certified as part of the program.
History and Agriculture Leadership (HAL)

Agriculture remains a major industry in Butler County. Our history is replete with agricultural innovations that we take for granted today. Our heritage and the history of our country is very much reflected in the history of agriculture.

This year, Butler County 4-H Teens took a tour of our nation’s and agriculture’s history. We toured Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown, Yorktown Battlefield, and made stops at Monticello, and Mount Vernon, Jefferson’s and Washington’s homes. We looked at early agriculture by Native Americans, early settlers, the more modern and innovative agriculture practiced by Washington and Jefferson, and even some destination agriculture.

We saw many innovations, the use of marl (soft limestone) for pH adjustment, bat guano for ferterlizer, the production of mules to replace oxen both for farm power and transportation. Jefferson’s interest in genetics, and his development of many varieties of vegetables and his development of grafting as an means to increase production in orchards.

The one rated the highest by our youth was Washington’s Grist Mill and Distillery. Our youth were interested in the agriculture diversification, (wheat production was not forced by law to be sold to the English) and what we today call value added agriculture. Washington could grind “pastry flour” and get a much higher price in the French market. Using excess grain for distillation, Washington was about to profit $6,000.00 annually. A tidy sum, at the end of the 18th Century.

What fascinated our youth the most was the Grist Mill. No metal gears, built on a tidal creek so that product could be shipped in and out with the tide. The source of water to drive the mill was a few miles away. The construction of a Mill Race (a.k.a aqueduct) to bring water was necessary. The mill had wooden gears. Only a few small pieces of metal in the building. Stone and wood construction. The mill could be operated by only 2 people who could grind 500-2000 or pounds of grain an hour.

4-H Communications and Projects

Butler County 4-H Council has set 4-H Communications as a priority. A total of 31 youth participated and gave speeches or demonstrations at the county level, with several advancing to area and state levels.

The County Project Show had an excellent turnout with 551 youth and 200 adult participating. Over 100 youth entries advance to compete at the Kentucky State Fair. Among those, 12 youth participated in the 4-H Country Ham project and gave speeches at the Kentucky State Fair as a part of the Kentucky 4-H Country Ham project.

4-H Aerospace

Rocketry has long been a successful 4-H program being conducted in the county since 1985. The recent expansion of the SET curriculum has supported and expanded this and our national 4-H Aerospace Curriculum is a great resource. Success builds success, and two of our former 4-H participants have jobs in the airline industry. Heath Martin is an airline pilot and Nikki Colter is a flight attendant. The West Ky 4-H Aerospace Camp saw 64 participants this year. Each instructor is a FAA certified CFII and has extensive experience. Because the instructors are certified, 4-Hers can “log” the time and count it toward the 10 hours necessary for a solo flight or the 40 hours necessary for a private license.

The Butler County Cooperative Extension Service

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