

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.



Mayor Billy Phelps promotes economic development with Mister Counselor Tian at the Chinese Embassy in Washington D.C. This trip was organized by the Butler County Entrepreneurship Committee.

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 138 people are now involved in addressing significant community issues

322 youth indicated an increase in leadership skills, knowledge or confidence through participation in Extension-related leadership programs

1074 citizens (youth & adults) acknowledged utilizing the skills learned through Extension programming

A total of 215 individuals reported making lifestyle changes (diet, exercise, managing stressors, healthy home practices, etc.) for the purpose of improving their health

A total of 150 youth and adults demonstrated informed and effective decision-making skills

AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES

2015 has been a successful year for Butler County adult agriculture education.

The Cooperative Extension Service was tasked with helping producers and land owners sign up for the federal farm bill program. The agriculture program coordinated with the local FSA office to make the sign up process as easy as possible for farmers and landowners.

The Extension Field Day was held in Sharer, KY, on the Cohron family's Heritage Farm. It had demonstrations on alfalfa management, a square bale hay accumulator, a bale wrapper to preserve quality, a soybean population demonstration, a soil tillage demonstration, healthy food, a craft project, and displays. We have offered programs about beekeeping, gardening, safe pesticide application, and distributed lots of information about using and producing local foods.

The Extension Service assisted the Butler County Stockman's Association in held their fifth livestock sale. The sale reached buyers from several counties. The group sold \$45,000 of cattle in an hour. Volunteers started planning the sale in October 2014. The Stockman's Association provided a forage quality contest. Extension facilitated collecting the samples and analyzing the results. The group also hosted its second Beef Field day in September. 55 cattle producers attended.



Warren Beeler presents info on Beef Cattle Marketing at the 2015 Stockman's Association Field Day.

We have identified many plants and plant diseases for clients. We also identify several insects and weeds each year. All of these UK diagnostic lab services are free. We have helped people with manure analysis, silage, other forage testing, and pond water testing for fish management.

I have visited community members to help with sick landscape plants, greenhouse production 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. A beginning beekeeping workshop was offered and 5 Butler County clients participated.



Participants assemble beekeeping equipment.

Economic Development through Extension

Leadership continues to identify jobs, business skills, and unemployment as major issues for us to address. Butler County's entrepreneurial coaching team has now coached 25 businesses. The Morgantown/Butler County Small Business Incubator program has 1 project ongoing and two more in development. A carbon fiber airplane manufacturing company opened in Morgantown after working with a UK trained entrepreneurial coach. Our Entrepreneurship committee added Dr. Richard Wan this year. Our team has been working to bring Chinese Investment to Morgantown. The team visited the Chinese Embassy in Washington D.C. In return a delegation of Chinese diplomats visited Morgantown this summer.

Our Rural Development Association has operated for 57 years. This valuable group has club meetings in 4 Rural Development communities each month.

Leadership Development for the Community

Extension offered leadership training for our County Extension Council.

We also provide service work in leadership development. Members of the community seek extension input or advice on by-laws and parliamentary procedure.

Members, or past members, of our Extension Council are serving on the Morgantown City Council and the Butler County Fiscal Court.

Natural Resources

This year, we offered private pesticide applicator training and assisted clients for in obtaining UK study materials for commercial pesticide licenses. Extension organized and conducted the Southern Kentucky Commercial Pesticide Applicator training in late 2014 and have one planned for December 2015. Local commercial license holders to get continuing education credits without traveling long distances and paying for overnight lodging.

Efforts are underway to construct a Mesonet weather station in Butler County.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Homemakers Making an Impact

Butler County Homemakers are an integral part of the community in which we live and work. Homemakers are known for their willingness to serve whenever called upon and many times before they are called. Homemakers never fail to step up to a challenge.

During the past year, Homemakers have:

- ◆ Donated more than 7,000 hours to our community
- ◆ Donated to the Ovarian Cancer Research Program, and offset the cost for individuals to attend the screening by paying for the van, mileage, and gas to transport individuals to screening
- ◆ Participated in the local food pantry, donating more than \$2,000 worth of items
- ◆ Donated \$100 to the Backpack Feeding Program, allowing one additional child living in situations of food insecurity to receive food over weekend days when they don't have access to school feeding programs
- ◆ Donated money to Project Prom, Andrea's Mission for Men and Women, and participate in activities at the Nursing Home

Extension Homemakers realize the value of all that they do for their community. They also encourage participation in community events and activities through their annual awards program.

SNAP-ED: Strengthening Families

The Butler County Cooperative Extension Service is offering Nutrition Education Classes using the SNAP-Ed Assistant, Michele Moore. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) reaches SNAP recipients and limited resource



Michele Moore, NEP Assistant, teaches healthy eating.

audiences providing nutrition education. Participants receive hands-on education and gain basic skills necessary to raise healthy families on limited incomes in a struggling economy. Clients are provided with nutrition education that teaches them to use SNAP resources effectively while promoting healthy eating habits with physically active lifestyles. Over 40 individuals have been enrolled in the program to date.

Second Saturday Classes

The Butler County Extension FCS Agent offers special interest classes on Saturdays to help reach and allow our working class clientele to participate in programming. These classes not only provide the opportunity to share a heritage skill, but give individuals the opportunity to earn income, give gifts made with love and from the heart, or share the experience they learned with others.



McKenzie and Marilyn Jones are pictured sewing their quilt blocks together as they participate in the 2nd Saturday Classes offered at the Extension office.

Mary Joe Franklin is shown teaching others how to make framed chalk boards. Other Classes that have been taught include sewing, crochet, knitting, quilting, card making, and up cycling.



LEAP

Extension FCS partnerships with the Community Action of Southern Kentucky Headstart programs and the Butler County Preschool Program to provide reading enhancement programs which are designed and conducted to encourage healthy lifestyles – specifically by eating more fruits & vegetables. Monthly sessions for both the local parent group, each Headstart classroom, and the Preschool classes include reading seasonal health topic books, discussion activities and food sampling or demonstrations

“The LEAP Program has enriched our curriculum by adding additional resources and activities to our classroom. “

Mrs. Gail Gaddie, Preschool Teacher

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Leadership in Action

A constant flow of leaders and leadership is necessary to continue Extension programs. However, leaders who participate in Extension programming also benefit from these specific training and leadership experiences.

Former 4-Her and Teen Leader, Russell Givens, received several training experiences with Step Up to Leadership and 4-H Talk Meet/Demonstration. He participated in club officer training and parliamentary procedure. He is an active member of the Stockman's Association, County Extension Council, etc. Russell chaired the CEC committee working with local government on the development of our Agricultural Exposition Center. Russell is now a City Council member.

Lauren Chism attended many leadership programs and trainings including: Talk Meet and Demonstrations, Step Up to Leadership, club officer training, was trained as and served as a teen leader at 4-H camp, and as an adult leader at 4-H Leadership Weekend. Lauren served on the MCA 4-H Teen Council and served as a committee member for 4-H Summit, Issues Conference, Teen Retreat and 4-H Leadership Weekend. Lauren specifically credited the 4-H program and her 4-H agent with helping her achieve so much. She was admitted to both University of Kentucky and University of Louisville Medical Schools.

Chris Holman was an active 4-Her, showed livestock, participated in livestock judging, was a camp volunteer, participated in Talk Meet/Demonstrations etc. Chris is currently a Credit Operations Officer with Farm Credit of Mid America. Chris still serves on the West KY 4-H Camp Improvement Committee, and was instrumental in helping secure recent financial support from Farm Credit for the KY 4-H Program.

Caleb Bratcher was a home schooled student. 4-H not only provided him outside experiences and social development, but the opportunities to participate in, and accelerate at individual leadership. Caleb attended all the conferences, but also pursued leadership as a goal. He served several years on the MCA 4-H Teen Council, the West KY 4-H Teen Retreat Committee, and served 2 years on the State 4-H Teen Council. No individual in Caleb's family had ever attended college. Last fall Caleb attended the University of Kentucky with significant scholarship support.

4-H programming and leadership development has not only changed and improved the lives of these individuals, but has improved their communities as well.

4-H Communications and Projects

Butler County 4-H Council has set 4-H Communications as a priority. A total of 41 speeches or demonstrations were at the county level, with several advancing to area and state levels. Gabe McFadyen was state champion in Performing Arts and Communication.

The County Project Show had an excellent turnout with over 500 entries. Over 100 youth entries advanced to compete at the Kentucky State Fair. Among those, 4 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. We had division champions in entomology, rabbits and electric.

4-H youth participate in the Communications Day Contest with speeches and demonstrations.



4-H Aerospace Camp

The West KY 4-H Aerospace Camp has grown significantly in 5 years. 4-Hers take classes on Navigation, GPS systems, Rocketry, Principles of Flight, etc. Youth get an introductory instruction flight in an aircraft. Instructors are FAA certified CFII so youth can "Log" their flight time.

Mr. Bowles, a passerby during last years camp, loved to see the kids learning and volunteered aircraft, a commercially certificated pilot, crew chief, and fuel to give the kids a 15 minute helicopter ride valued at approx. \$5,000.00.

Several of the youth who have participated, have taken additional instruction and are on their way to a private pilots license. At least 2 are pursuing careers as pilots in the US military.

<p>COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE</p> <p>UK UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY College of Agriculture, Food and Environment</p>	<p>The Butler County Cooperative Extension Service</p> <p><i>Extending Knowledge, Changing Lives</i></p>
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