

EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE *Changing Lives*



IN CALLOWAY COUNTY

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



Western Rivers Junior Livestock Expo, Bill Cherry Expo Center

Livestock Showing & Judging

Livestock showing and judging continues to be a strong tradition in Calloway County. The Calloway County Extension Office, along with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and Murray State University hosted the Western Rivers Junior Livestock Expo again this summer. Just like many summers in the past, it was a great success. 4-H and FFA students from all over the state make the trip to the Bill Cherry Expo Center every year to participate.

This two-day event begins on day one with livestock judging and skill-a-thon competitions and clinics. The two clinics teach our youth valuable information about their livestock projects and the contests allow them to demonstrate what they've learned. The senior division is also required to give reasons for the classes they judge. This is invaluable training that teaches them reasoning, impromptu speech and critical thinking skills.

Day two is a fun-filled day of showing for those students who brought their livestock projects along for the trip. This event has a great impact on our youth and we hope that it continues for many years to come.

Priority Program Efforts

- A total of 15 people are now involved in addressing significant community issues
- 102 people reported they are ready to enter the work force as a result of Extension programming
- 35 individuals reported an increase in knowledge of sustainable energy
- 537 people reported an increase in awareness of sustainable agriculture practices
- 260 youth indicated an increase in leadership skills, knowledge or confidence through participation in Extension-related leadership programs
- 1,200 citizens (youth & adults) acknowledged utilizing the skills they learned through Extension programming
- 1,086 children and youth were reached through Extension programming related to eating healthy foods
- A total of 250 youth and adults demonstrated informed and effective decision making skills
- 35 individuals incorporated new or additional conservation practices



4-H and Youth Development

Robotics Team-RoboRacers & SPARC Robotics

In the fifth year of its existence, the Murray Calloway Robotics Team, the RoboRacers, have embarked upon a new level of engineering and innovation. The team built their robot out of carbon fiber that the students were able to cure and create. This expensive and advanced material is very strong and durable, yet light. This 4-H team has built capacity and skills over the last five years.

The team received a NASA grant to compete in 2015, which enabled them to focus attention on new design plans with carbon fiber and a new drive train. The skills developed this season will propel this group into the next level of gracious professionalism.

The future for our 4-H Robot Team is bright, as many of these youth and mentors will have additional years of participation and opportunities to serve. The team members of 3843 mentored and encouraged the new 4-H First LEGO League Team in their efforts.

This six-man team of Calloway County 4-H youth were able to win at the Regional Competition in Paducah and traveled to the state event at Northern Kentucky University near Cincinnati. This exciting team of SPARC Robotics developed a website, built a robot to maneuver their obstacles, coded the robot and practiced to increase and perfect their skills in programming the robot. They learned to problem-solve and communicate those skills to others in this exciting competition.



The Calloway County 4-H Robotics Team, the RoboRacers and their

New Clubs in 2014

In the fall of 2014, three new clubs were established with leaders at the West Kentucky Mentoring building during after school hours. Tour de Calloway Bicycle Club meets two times a month to learn how to cycle safely around the neighborhood and community. The International Foods Club meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month to enable youth to learn and explore foods and culture from different countries. The 3rd club is the Upcycling Club. This club encourages members to recycle and retool items for new uses. All three clubs have a diverse and excited membership that loves the hands-on learning and new opportunities to be part of active 4-H clubs.



4-H International Foods Club with leaders Myrna Vazquez, Ginny Harper and guest speaker Carolina Villeda, along with Calloway teens

International Foods

Expanding a world view and engaging and interacting with youth and adults from around the world are two of the many skills gained through the collaboration of the 4-H International Foods Club. In the fall of 2014, West Kentucky Mentoring and the Calloway County Cooperative Extension Service embarked upon a monthly 4-H Club to teach food preparation skills, healthy tasting of foods and cultural introduction to a larger world than Murray.

The youth are always excited to chop, mix and prepare new dishes and listen to and ask questions from the expert guests from other parts of the world. The youth range in age from 7-17. All members are gaining skills and enjoy relating to each other and the guests from other countries. The SNAP-ed Assistant teaches a monthly lesson to have the youth take home a practical tip and practice what they learned. Countries that we have explored to date are Peru, Costa Rica, Thailand, Spain, Switzerland, England, France, China, Poland, Mexico, Puerto Rico and the United States. Culture, games, music and language are also often a part of the learning experience.

Volunteer of the Year

Volunteers make all the difference in our 4-H program. Mrs. Connie Talent was recognized at the 2015 Kentucky 4-H Horse Show as Volunteer of the Year. Connie has given countless hours to



the 4-H Horse program. She is one of the 4-H certified leaders for the Calloway County 4-H Program. She serves on the District Horse Committee and is willing to share her love

and knowledge of hippology (the study of horses) with others. She has developed a series of CD's that have amazing pictures of horses and tack for training purposes. She is also a Master Clothing Volunteer and gives her time to teach the skills of sewing to 4-H youth, adults in our community and around the Purchase Area and throughout the state of Kentucky. Connie has been nominated for the 4-H Volunteer Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award.

Water Watch Program

In June 2015, Calloway County 4-H and the Calloway County Conservation District hosted a family overnight camp at Hancock Biological Station to train new youth and adults to water test and become involved in the Four Rivers Water Watch program. Three new creeks will be adopted and monitored due to this exciting training. Youth enjoy the time in the water and gain hands-on knowledge and experience in the local environment, which will translate into their care and concern for their world in the future. The new families are passionate and willing to effectively volunteer their time to explore and record information about their selected creeks.



Myrna Vazquez and her son, Oskar, participate in the water testing program with Calloway County 4-H

Family & Consumer Sciences

Learn to Sew

An eight month sewing program was conducted from August to April by the Calloway County Extension Agent for Family & Consumer Sciences, along with the assistance of eight trained clothing leaders. The focus was to teach participants the life skills of sewing and how to make their own clothes. They could also save money by repairing their own clothes and toys, learn about the apparel industry and how clothes make it to the store, and learn common life skills, such as how to do laundry and iron clothes properly.

The Kentucky 4-H sewing curriculum was used to teach the program to 40 8-19 year old boys and girls. The participants were divided into units and the clothing leaders taught the techniques of their unit from September through December. The final project was introduced in January and completed by the end of April, at which time completed projects are judged for sewing construction and how the project fits on the participant by modeling in the County 4-H Fashion Revue. In addition, participants took field trips to a fabric store, a sewing machine store and a clothing store during the course of the program.

The Learn to Sew program has been ongoing for eight years and several participants who have remained with the program have reached the upper level units. The parents of these participants responded to an online survey of the program. Parents shared, "I feel it is a lost skill that needs to be preserved." "She learned more about her machine and really started wanting to make more things



Calloway County Master Clothing Volunteer and Learn to Sew leader, Lee Furst, assists youth with sewing projects in the sewing program.

"My daughter wanted to learn more about sewing. This class was a big confidence boost...she really enjoyed it."
- Parent of a Learn to Sew student regarding her daughters involvement in Learn to Sew

Agriculture & Natural Resources



Calloway County Master Gardeners Logo

Calloway County Master Gardeners

We are hosting the very first Master Gardener training course in Calloway County over the next year. The recruiting for the class was met with such enthusiasm that it was full within two weeks. We have ten excellent individuals from a wide range of backgrounds that have come together to learn more about gardening and to volunteer in ways that help their communities and others. Pre/post-test for the initial class showed that the participants are willing and able to learn in-depth material.

The group began their journey to become Master Gardeners in September and will graduate in September 2016. The classes cover a wide range of topics, including basic botany, plant identification and soil properties and testing. Following our first graduating class, we will begin an official "Calloway County Master Gardeners" organization and will continue to offer certification classes to develop new members. Members will be required to complete a set number of volunteer hours and continuing education hours each year to maintain their membership.

This organization was designed to create an avenue for willing and able volunteers to assist with community projects and offer educational programs. We hope to see the impact grow and flourish for years to come.

2014 Farm Bill Programs

The Calloway County Extension Service, alongside our local FSA Office and Adult Ag program, assisted with multiple workshops in the county whose programming was geared toward explaining the outcome of the 2014 farm bill and how it impacted farmers.

In these programs information was provided on how the different farm bill decision tools function and what benefits they provide when making decisions about the farm bill. By joining forces with the local FSA, Adult Ag and Regional University, we were able to reach a very broad audience and provide them with useful and concrete information.



Producers who attended the workshop obtained valuable information about egg and broiler production

Raising Backyard Chickens

In a joint venture with the Graves County Extension Office, a Backyard Chicken Workshop was developed and was directed at providing information to the numerous small flock producers in our area. Dr. Jacob drove down from Lexington to provide the educational information and the local Tractor Supply brought innovative products to display. The information covered the basics of raising chickens in a small flock, how to process meat birds and how to handle eggs. Dr. Jacob's knowledge and presentations were well received by the crowd with all participants stating that the information provided to them was useful.

However, it was the question and answer dialogue that was the surprise bonus to the program. The participants willingness to ask detailed questions and Dr. Jacob's ability to respond to them with research based information on-the-spot was very well received. She was able to dispel multiple myths about small flock production. Her explanation on how and why you should wash an egg was very well received by the audience. Both of the producers that produce eggs for sale to the public said that their procedure will change. One producer noted that it will save him countless hours of labor and eliminate the cost of purchasing an approved egg cleaning agent. He estimated it would save him a total of \$.10 per dozen, saving him an estimated \$208.00 annually.

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*Extending Knowledge,
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