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

Working Together to Enrich Lives

Priority Program Efforts

- A total of 290 people are now involved in addressing significant community issues
- 50 youth made an impact in their community through service projects
- 356 local residents implemented practices that promote sustainable agriculture
- 8 Producers reported an economic impact (i.e., increase in agricultural productivity, increase in higher returns, decrease in expenses) in their agricultural operations
- 65 youth indicated an increase in leadership skills, knowledge or confidence through participation in Extension-related leadership programs
- 121 citizens (youth & adults) acknowledged utilizing the skills learned through Extension programming
- A total of 3,800 individuals reported making lifestyle changes (diet, exercise, managing stressors, healthy home practices, etc.) for the purpose of improving their health
- A total of 36 youth and adults demonstrated informed and effective decision-making skills
- 570 individuals incorporated new or additional conservation practices.

The 2014 Pumpkin Festival was a joint-effort between all Cooperative Extension program areas: Family Consumer Sciences, Agriculture and Natural Resources and 4-H Youth Development along with various other community organizations throughout Clark County. This event hosted over 1,100 youth and adult participants at the Clark County Fair Grounds where elementary students from Clark County schools participated in physical activity, entomology, livestock, nutrition and horticulture education.

Above: Elementary students ready to pick pumpkins.
During the 2013-2014 4-H program year Clark County 4-H made efforts in promoting Science, Engineering and Technology (SET). A major aspect of preparing youth for the workforce is promoting critical and creative thinking. Therefore, with the help of stakeholders in Clark County, the need for experiential learning opportunities focused on engineering and environmental education was identified. Efforts toward this goal were initiated through two types of programming: 4-H Robotics and 4-H Environmental Camp.

**4-H Robotics**

Over 100 4-H’ers in Clark County participated in the 4-H Robotics Club. These 4-Hers built and programmed robots using Lego Mindstorm EV3 robotic kits. Youth developed and built robots to desired specifications, and programmed the robot to complete specific tasks, such as sort colored blocks, move items that obstructed a desired path and how to sense direction out of a maze. To build the robot, 4-H’ers had to identify their personal strengths that they could contribute to a team, work in a team to build and then design and test the robotic system. 100% of involved 4-H’ers reported that they used critical thinking and problem-solving skills. 100% of involved 4-Hers were able to communicate how their newly developed skills obtained through the 4-H Robotics Club could be used to pursue a career in science, engineering or technology. Clark County 4-H collaborated with the Clark County Extension District Board, Lockheed Martin and the Clark County Public School System to provide programming to youth.

**4-H Environmental Camp**

The Clark County 4-H Program and Clark County Public Schools worked together to provide hands-on learning focused on environmental education to 4th and 5th grade students. In the 2013-2014 school year 4-H environmental programs grew to include every 4th and/or 5th grade in all nine Clark County Public Schools and one parochial school in either a day camp or overnight camping experience. The camps provided youth with the opportunity to develop life-enduring skills, such as living in a group setting, team work and responsibility.

Topics explored included water, soils, Kentucky History, forestry, entomology, GPS, solar systems, geology, wildlife, archery and physical activity. The activities were conducted by the Clark County Extension Service, Clark County Public Schools, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension, US Department of Forestry, Clark County Geographic Information System (GIS), USDA Natural Resource Conservation, East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Bluegrass Green Source, and Lower Howard’s Creek Nature Preserve. Through evaluation, teachers indicated that they had the ability to build off of activities students experienced at camp. 100% of youth learned something new about nature and the environment, will share with others about what they learned, spend more time outdoors and engage in more environmental activities.

Looking toward the future the Clark County 4-H Program hopes to continue growing programs that inspire youth to critically and creatively think through experiential learning opportunities.
Clark County Extension Homemakers wear many hats. The organization began about 1923 with the First Settlers Community Club (now First Settlers Homemaker Club), followed by Indian Old Fields, Mt. Zion, and the Progressive of Victory Heights as the first to organize.

Extension Homemakers is a volunteer organization that works to improve the quality of life for families and communities through leadership development, volunteer service and education. The organization was developed in cooperation with the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service.

Extension Homemakers combine fellowship with learning opportunities at club meetings and workshops. Practical demonstrations and discussions are, and have always been, an important part of the meetings.

Today’s homemaker programs educate members and the general public on topics such as: time management, fall prevention, couponing, diabetes, home accessibility, emergency preparedness, financial decision making and health issues.

Clark County currently has 13 organized traditional clubs and 4 specialty clubs. Visit us on the web to learn how you can join. http://ces.ca.uky/edu/clark

Pictures to Left:
Top: Beverly Walker, award-winning fiber artist discusses the many hats of fine arts.
Middle: Hypertufa Workshop
Bottom: Pat Skinnemoen, Clark County Homemaker member, receives recognition for serving as State County Extension Council delegate.
Interest in fruit and vegetable production, and interest in using the local farmers market is increasing in Clark County for both small farm producers and Clark County residents. Because of this interest, the Clark County Cooperative Extension Service conducted the 2014 Horticulture Farm Field Day in May to increase the awareness about the availability of vegetables produced by local farmers, and to demonstrate vegetable production technologies that are available to benefit small farm vegetable producers.

There were 40 participants at the field day which included 20 residents, and 20 producers. The field day included four stops: the Winchester/Clark County Farmers Market; My Fathers Garden, a local organic vegetable farm; Rocky Knob Farm, a commercial vegetable farm; and Reece Gardens, a strawberry and vegetable farm. The field day served to connect consumers and producers, made consumers more aware of the availability of local fruits and vegetables, demonstrated the use of high tunnels to extend the fruit and vegetable production season, and demonstrated the use of black plastic mulch with drip irrigation to increase the production of strawberries and vegetables.

In a survey conducted at the conclusion of the field day, 24 participants indicated they had gained knowledge of vegetable production technology that they would implement on their farm or home garden. Thirty participants indicated that they had not previously utilized the local farmers market, but would after what they had learned by attending the field day. In addition, other small farmers and home gardeners that were not able to attend the field day visited the Clark County Extension Office to learn about the vegetable production technologies demonstrated after hearing about them from field day participants.

Overall, the 2014 Clark County Horticulture Field Day successfully demonstrated technologies and methods for producing fruits and vegetables in the small farm setting, and enabled consumers to learn more about the availability of local fruits and vegetables.