Priority Program Efforts

- A total of 63 people are now involved in addressing significant community issues
- 107 youth made an impact in their community through service projects
- 354 local residents implemented practices that promote sustainable agriculture
- 211 Producers reported an economic impact (i.e., increase in agricultural productivity, increase in higher returns, decrease in expenses) in their agricultural operations
- 709 youth indicated an increase in leadership skills, knowledge or confidence through participation in Extension-related leadership programs
- 2596 citizens (youth & adults) acknowledged utilizing the skills learned through Extension programming
- A total of 1450 individuals reported making lifestyle changes (diet, exercise, managing stressors, healthy home practices, etc.) for the purpose of improving their health
- A total of 766 youth and adults demonstrated informed and effective decision-making skills
- 36 individuals incorporated new or additional conservation practices.
Family and Consumer Sciences

Helping our Community Kick-off to a Healthy & Safe Summer

The lack of physical activity and poor nutritional food choices for children are issues that affect every county in the state of Kentucky. To address these issues locally, Daviess County Cooperative Extension Family and Consumer Sciences hosted the first annual “Kick-off to a Healthy & Safe Summer” event in June in conjunction with the Friday After 5 Street Fair. Families received educational information and materials relating to nutrition, summer safety, physical activity, and budget friendly, community events/activities in a fun, family atmosphere. Over 700 people attended the event and children were given items such as water bottles, Frisbees, jump ropes, and healthy snacks. Parents who participated stated that they plan to utilize the physical activity materials and information received to work toward a healthier family mindset and lifestyle.

Developing Skills for Success Program

Securing financial stability and basic financial management skills are both important aspects in a family or an individual’s overall well-being. The Daviess County Cooperative Extension Service partnered with the Owensboro Community and Technical College Ready to Work/Work to Learn program to provide basic financial management education and resources to 29 young adult program participants. The classes were conducted once per month over a 4-month period and focused on real skills for everyday life, the importance of professional communication skills, interview skills, and understanding your money habitue. Through individual session evaluations an average of 77% of participants stated they found the sessions and resources to be educational, informative, and appropriate for their current situation and needs. The Ready to Work program coordinator stated “Daviess County's Cooperative Extension Service brought a new light to our monthly workshops that are scheduled for our students. Classes provided by the Extension Service were very beneficial to our students and we plan to continue this partnership.”

4-H Youth Development

Progressive Agriculture Safety Day®

Unintentional injury, while declining, remains the leading cause of death among children ages 19 and under. To raise awareness and show children ways to prevent these types of injuries, the Daviess County Cooperative Extension Service applied for and received a grant from the Progressive Agriculture Foundation to host a Progressive Agriculture Safety Day®. The event was held in June 2014 at the Daviess County Lions Club Fairgrounds with 50 youth ages 8-12 attending. Safety stations included: firearms, first-aid, food, water, ATV, electrical, fire, underground utilities, and tractor roll-over. In a post evaluation 74% were able to write down something they learned at Safety Day. Additionally, 70% of participants indicated learning something they could do to be safer at home or on the farm.

Local Youth Learn about Agriculture through Farm Tour

The United States population is increasingly more removed from the farm. In 1935, the number of farms peaked at 6.8 million. Today there are just 2.2 million farms. To provide children with an up close look at how the food they eat is produced, the Daviess County Cooperative Extension Service organized a Youth Farm Tour in October 2013. The program illustrated the importance of agriculture and how farmers are good stewards of their land and livestock. Thirty-one youth ages 5 to 12 visited a hog farm, a grain farm, and a vegetable and tobacco operation. Results of a written survey
given immediately following the event indicated that 95% of the youth learned something new about agriculture and 74% thought that agriculture was more important after participating in the farm tour.

**Learning Life Skills through 4-H**

Daviess County 4-H offers many opportunities for personal growth. This year, over 2,400 youth were able to hone specific skills in the areas of public speaking, sewing, needlework, cooking, livestock, shooting sports, natural resources, horse, nutrition, civic engagement, science and technology, leadership, and entrepreneurship. Their participation in the 4-H Summer Program, after-school 4-H projects, 4-H Camp, Clubs, Fall and Spring Break Day Camps and Holiday Extravaganza contributed to 636 exhibits in the Daviess County Lions Club Fair.

**Watching Girls Grow with Jr.MANRRS**

Daviess County offers a wide range of extracurricular activities. However, character building and life skills are oftentimes overlooked. The Jr.MANRRS (Minorities in Natural Resources and Related Sciences) program was implemented at the H.L. Neblett Community Center in cooperation with Daviess County 4-H Youth Development for youth in 7-12 grades. Jr.MANRRS is an opportunity to explore careers and opportunities that may otherwise be overlooked, and establish connections with fellow participants. Jr.MANRRS also enhances leadership roles, communication, and life skills. The youth have increased their communication skills and life skills, have become active 4-H members, and have participated in civic engagement with Special Olympics and the H. L. Neblett Community Center.

**Horticulture**

**Starting a Seed Library in Daviess County**

The Extension Master Gardeners partnered with the Daviess County Public Library to start a Seed Library in February, 2014. This is a wonderful way to encourage people to grow vegetables and/or flowers in their yard or in containers on the patio. The packets of seeds available at the library were prepared by the Extension Master Gardeners. In the month of May, over 951 packets of seeds were checked out from the library. One person growing spaghetti squash for the first time had checked out the seeds. He said, “This was a good way to try something new without spending the money for the seeds.”

**Master Gardeners Benefit Our Community**

Working with the Daviess County Extension Agent for Horticulture, trained Extension Master Gardener Volunteers help provide research based information on horticultural topics to clientele. Fourteen new trainees were added to the program in December. A total of 63 active Extension Master Gardeners reported 5,404 volunteer hours this year. The total value of their volunteer service to the community was $118,888. The volunteers reached clientele through educational booths at community events such as: The Owensboro Home and Garden Show, Owensboro Regional Farmers’ Market, Harvest Market at Owensboro Health Regional Hospital, and at the Western Kentucky Botanical Garden. They also provided an educational program and plants for Owensboro Habitat for Humanity homeowners during the spring.
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Managing Nitrogen in Irrigated Corn

Since the early 1990’s, more than 200 center pivot irrigation systems have been installed in Daviess County. Many landowners adopted this technology to reduce production risk in farm fields which have limited water holding capacity. Recent farm media publications suggest corn yield can be increased with center pivots through the addition of nitrogen by fertigation after tasseling. The University of Kentucky had no data to support this theory so a study was implemented in Daviess and Henderson Counties in 2013 to examine corn utilization of additional nitrogen in irrigated fields. Summer interns conducted an irrigation management survey of pivot irrigation operators to determine a baseline of traditional management style across 14 farms. Then additional nitrogen was located in the irrigated fields at V-5 to evaluate nitrogen uptake later in the season. Results indicated nitrogen rates higher than those recommended by the University for irrigated corn and did not reflect additional plant uptake in an irrigated environment, despite excessive nitrate levels in the soil. Studies by the University in 2014 are designed to determine if later placement of the recommended nitrogen rate will reflect a yield increase.

Local Producers Demonstrate No-Till Tobacco

The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is recognized across the country for being a leader in the advancement of no-till production systems. Much work has been done in farmer education of profitable and successful no-till farming practices related to grain production but producers have been resistant to investigating no-till tobacco production. Local agricultural leadership has expressed interest in investigating no-till tobacco and a workshop was conducted in early 2014 to educate producers on the proper production techniques and equipment requirements for no-till tobacco. As a direct result of this workshop, three Daviess County producers demonstrated a no-till tobacco setter on 25 acres of burley and dark air-cure tobacco in 2014.

West Woodland Owners Short Course (WOSC)

Approximately 45,000 acres of trees cover the surface of Daviess County. With this amount representing 15% of the county, the majority of which is privately owned, a Woodland Owner Short Course program was hosted last August by the Daviess County Cooperative Extension Service. The program targeted Kentucky’s private woodland owners and was designed to assist them in the management of their woodlands. The long-term impacts from this program will result in increased revenue earned from timber sales for those using a professional forester, improved wildlife habitat, increased woodland productivity, and improved woodland health.

The Daviess County Cooperative Extension Service
Extending Knowledge, Changing Lives

For more information, contact us at:
4800A New Hartford Road
Owensboro, KY 42303-1800
270-685-8480
Fax: 270-685-3276
www.ca.uky.edu