

EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE *Changing Lives*



IN DAVIESS COUNTY

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



Dr. Temple Grandin speaks to clientele on April 9 at the Daviess County Extension Office.

Priority Program Efforts

A total of 102 people are now involved in addressing significant community issues

45 youth made an impact in their community through service projects

36 local residents implemented practices that promote sustainable agriculture

25 Producers reported an economic impact (i.e., increase in agricultural productivity, increase in higher returns, decrease in expenses) in their agricultural operations

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

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

A total of 286 youth and adults demonstrated informed and effective decision-making skills

200 individuals incorporated new or additional conservation practices.

Dr. Temple Grandin, Author and Agriculture Advocate Visits with Daviess County Citizens in April

The Daviess County Cooperative Extension Service was honored to have world renowned livestock specialist, Dr. Temple Grandin, stop by our office on April 9 to talk with farmers and extension clientele. Dr. Grandin is a professor of animal science at Colorado State University, a best-selling author, an autism activist, and a consultant to the livestock industry on animal behavior. She is recognized in the agriculture sector as the “go to” person for understanding animal behavior and characteristics.

Dr. Grandin, the most accomplished and well known adult with autism in the world, lectures throughout the United States, and discusses the importance of transparency in our farming practices. She understands the need for utilizing efficient and safe animal production techniques as well as the importance of promoting the animal agriculture sector by how we want it portrayed, rather than allowing influences on the public and consumers to come from those who have no understanding of our farm businesses.

EARLY CAREER FARMERS GAIN MANAGEMENT SKILLS IN KY FARMSTART

The Daviess County Comprehensive Plan for agriculture, developed by the Daviess County Extension Agricultural Advisory Committee and Daviess County Agricultural Development Council, identified expansion of extension educational programs designed for early career farmers as a priority. As a result, the Green River Area Extension offices worked with extension farm management specialists, to develop the KY FarmStart educational program. KY FarmStart was initially designed as a two-year, multi-session farm management and leadership program, for early career farmers with less than 10 years of farm management experience.

To date, 63 farmers representing all Green River Area counties have participated in one of the three



Participants toured demonstration farm.

classes conducted since 2009. This program has surpassed participants' and agents' expectations, as we recognize participants' achievements within their individual businesses, families, and the community. Each Daviess County alumni of the program, has served in a leadership role within an agricultural or community-based organization. Each alumni of the program has diversified their farm business in one or more aspects.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION AIDS IN THE NEW FARM BILL DECISION

The Agricultural Act of 2014 proved to be radically different than previous farm bills, with a move away from reliance on direct subsidy, to a model based on price and risk coverage. Landowners were faced with a tremendous decision. Through a series of meetings provided by the Daviess County Cooperative Extension Service, landowners learned about the new farm bill and how to calculate for price loss coverage and agricultural risk coverage options. Information provided by the Grain Marketing Specialist was used by hundreds of Daviess County landowners in their decision. As a result, 99 percent of Daviess County landowners chose the agricultural risk coverage option of the new farm bill.

EXTENSION MASTER GARDENERS CONTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY

Trained Extension Master Gardener volunteers provide the community with research based information on horticultural topics. Knowledge gained by program participants is exhibited by reaching clientele through educational booths at local events. They also maintain the Seed Library and present programs. Extension Master Gardeners reported that they volunteered 6,061 hours toward educational projects involving horticulture in the community this year. The total value of the volunteer service to the community was \$133,342.



Extension Master Gardener demonstrated how to grow vegetables in a container.

Extension Master Gardeners taught Habitat for Humanity homeowners about landscaping with perennial plants shared from the gardens of many Extension Master Gardeners. Participants took plants home for his or her landscape and look forward to this annual event.

YOUNG GARDENERS MORE LIKELY TO EAT WHAT THEY GROW

Research from various sources shows that youth who learn to grow their own produce will likely increase their intake of vegetables and encourages them to try different ones. The Daviess County Horticulture Agent presented a series of programs at Girls Inc. in Owensboro related to vegetable gardening in their two raised beds. Participants learned and demonstrated how to plant radish, lettuce, and squash seeds, and transplant peppers, tomatoes, and broccoli into the raised beds. Many of the girls had not planted anything before this program. For 90 percent of those tasting radishes, it was their first time.

“Temple (Grandin) has been responsible for revolutionizing the livestock industry by her unique ability to connect with livestock. She sees things we as producers may have not been aware of in terms of facility maintenance.”

- Jim Gilles III, Hill View Farms Meats

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION AND RWRA PRESENT RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP

Cities and counties face EPA regulations to prevent the contamination of rivers, streams, and other bodies of water by untreated sewage, sediment, debris, and chemicals that harm humans and the environment.



Brian Henderson of RWRA demonstrated how to construct a rain barrel.

Managing storm water by keeping it out of the combined sewer system of the Owensboro community is a goal to help prevent the system from exceeding its capacity and discharging untreated waste water into bodies of water.

The Daviess County Cooperative Extension Service and UK Extension Specialists partnered with the Regional Water Resource Agency (RWRA) to present workshops to educate homeowners on water quality and how to keep storm water runoff on their property. The extension specialists presented educational material and helped to prepare the barrels for the Rain Barrel Workshop in October. RWRA provided the barrels, helped participants assemble the final product, and contributed technical advice. All participants assembled a rain barrel; 97 percent plan to install it in 2015 and 95 percent plan to adopt one or more water conservation practices for their home landscape.

4-H SPEECH CONTEST BUILDS SELF-CONFIDENCE

Daviess County 4-H sponsors a Speech Contest in the fall of each school year. Students receive the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service *Speak Up* publication. The participants, who include public, private, and home-schooled students, then work at home and in class to prepare his or her speech. Each classroom selects the top four speakers to send to the county contest. This year, 284 students ages 9-13 wrote a speech. Forty-eight advanced to the county contest. From the district event, three advanced to state competition. In a post evaluation, 92 percent of the participants indicated they improved their public speaking skills and increased self-confidence each time they gave their speech.

UK/FCS PROGRAMMING ENHANCES FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SKILLS

Families and individuals that deal with drug and/or alcohol addiction issues often face various types of abuse (physical, mental, and emotional), strained family relationships, financial hardships, and stress. The Daviess County Cooperative Extension Service partnered with a local recovery and support center to provide University of Kentucky educational programming on financial management that includes money habitudes, understanding credit and debt, budgeting, and setting financial goals. Participants in the program stated that they found the sessions very helpful and that they have increased knowledge and skills related to managing their finances.

PLATE IT UP KY PROUD ENCOURAGES EATING MORE FRUITS & VEGETABLES

According to the Center for Disease Control, Kentucky adults rank among the 10 highest in poor consumption of fruits and vegetables. This directly affects the health of adults and families in the state.



Samples of healthy Kentucky Proud recipes shared at Owensboro Farmers' Market.

The Plate It Up KY Proud program provides materials and resources to educate families about local produce and agriculture, preparing healthy recipes

that incorporate fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as proper handling and storage of produce. The Daviess County Cooperative Extension Service shared healthy recipe samples at community events, after school programs, and assisted living facilities.

Families are able to sample and learn about local produce and ways to prepare it for their families. Recipe cards are provided so they may prepare the recipe at home. Many children stated that they had not tried the fresh fruit or vegetable previously.

A monthly radio segment on WBKR titled "What's Cookin'?" features a different Plate It Up KY Proud recipe each month. The radio segment reaches approximately 9000 listeners in the area.

Youth Thrive at 4-H Camp

A longitudinal study of 4-H by Tufts University revealed young people involved in 4-H programs have a consistently higher level of positive youth development, contributions to their community, and increased life skills. “The

results of this longitudinal study continually reinforce the idea that when youth participate in programs such as 4-H, they thrive in numerous ways including health, positive development, and community contribution,” said Dr. Richard Lerner. Fifty-one Daviess County campers and



The rock wall is part of the challenge course at 4-H Camp

volunteer leaders attended West Kentucky 4-H Camp for 4 days and 3 nights along with others from Union, Hancock, Henderson, and McLean Counties as well as youth and volunteers from Southern Illinois. Campers learned skills that will help them at home, school, or elsewhere, took responsibility for themselves all or most of the time, and made new friends at camp.

4-H POULTRY BBQ PROJECT TEACHES MORE THAN COOKING CHICKEN

Cooking is a valuable life skill that teaches children about nutrition and food safety, as well as building math, science, literacy, and fine motor skills.



4-H'ers cut their chicken to prepare it for the grill.

Retrieved from <http://www.homefoodsafety.org/kids/teaching-kids-to-cook>.

The 4-H Chicken and Poultry Barbecue Project is designed to teach youth the basic principles of food safety and to help them develop food preparation skills. 4-H Youth

Development Agents from Daviess, Hancock, and McLean counties held a multi-county 4-H Poultry BBQ Day Camp at the Daviess County Cooperative Extension Service in June. Youth learned food and kitchen safety and

how to make Kentucky BBQ Sauce using the *Kentucky 4-H Chicken and Turkey Barbeque Project* publication. Each participant barbecued a half chicken. None of them had ever barbecued a chicken before but most said they would definitely do it again. Each were able to cite the correct, safe internal cooking temperature for poultry, and could also name two safety rules they learned such as cooking with clean hands and washing hands after handling raw meat.

NURTURING FAMILIES INITIATIVE STRENGTHENS FAMILIES

Family and Consumer Sciences Extension focuses on individual and family development by promoting effective communication, understanding developmental ages and stages, appreciating individual and cultural differences, developing a strong value system, making wise decisions, and encouraging a supportive environment. The Nurturing Families Initiative builds personal strengths, interpersonal communication, and life skills to strengthen families through educational programming. Families face various stressors and obstacles on a daily basis that can negatively affect family relationships and strength. Though true for all families, those that are tasked with caring for a family member with mental or physical disabilities can often face additional difficulties. The Daviess County Cooperative Extension Service partnered with the Wendell Foster's Campus for Developmental Disabilities to provide a series of educational classes focused on developing independent living skills for young adults with development disabilities. The program focused on educating young adults and teens about how to care for themselves, complete daily tasks, and make healthy choices on their own.

COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION
SERVICE

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Cooperative Extension Service**

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Changing Lives*

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