More and more land owners are coming to realize the potential benefits of managing their forested land to help maintain and increase native species of trees and other plants as well as adding food and habitat for many species of wildlife. According to the most recent Forest Inventory and Analysis performed by the US Forest Service and the Kentucky Division of Forestry, there are almost 127,000 acres of forested land in Edmonson County, 93% of which is privately owned.

Just like the Edmonson County Forestry and Wildlife Field Day program the previous year, the Kentucky Tree Farmer of the Year Field Day was targeted at Kentucky’s private woodland owners and was designed to assist private woodland owners in the management and care of their woodlands. It was a partnership of UK Forestry Extension, Edmonson County Cooperative Extension Office, Kentucky Division of Forestry, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Kentucky Woodland Owners Association, and the Kentucky Tree Farm Committee. The field day featured programming on the importance of woodlands and why to manage them, tree planting, hunt leasing, invasive species control, crop tree management, wildlife, karst topography and best management practices.

An e-mailed evaluation along with personal follow up by the County Agriculture Extension Agent with several participants showed that 100% of the participants indicated that the program exceeded or met their expectations and 90% indicated that the program will help them better manage and work their woodlands. Also, greater than 50% of participants gained knowledge of the threat of invasive species to our woodlands, 45% gained knowledge of where to get help managing their woodlands, and 35% more now know where to get assistance with woodland management for wildlife.
Health Rocks!

In 2012 and 2013 the Edmonson County Extension office participated in the Health Rocks grant program through Kentucky State University. The Program Assistant participated in the required trainings and the program was presented to the 3rd and 4th grade classes in both of the elementary schools in the county. A total of 182 children participated in 2012 and 273 participated in 2013.

In written evaluations, more than 95% said that they thought the program was beneficial; 93% intended to get more exercise thanks to the program; 97% realized that they should not try illegal drugs; and greater than 90% thought that they were better able to deal with potential bullying.

Thanks to the program, a total of $4004 was split equally between the participating schools and the 4-H program, netting $2002 to benefit Edmonson county 4-H activities.

Other community educational programs that involve the Extension Service include but are not limited to: Farm Safety Day Camp, Reality Store, Nolin Lake State Park Eco Day, 4-H Summer Camp Week, the Students Targeting Outside Pressures (S.T.O.P) program, 5th Grade Health Camp, Food Preserving Classes, Private Pesticide Applicator Training, Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) training, Leadership Edmonson County, Back Pack for Hunger Program & Community Garden Expo.