

COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION  
SERVICE



When you support Extension Agriculture and Natural Resource Programs, families discover agriculture; make a conscience effort to purchase local agricultural products which lead to a stronger economically viable agricultural land base, preservation of the rural character, and improving land and water resources.



Contact your Extension agent at  
Campbell County  
Cooperative Extension Office  
3500 Alexandria Pike  
Highland Heights, KY 41076-1705  
Phone: (859) 572-2600  
Fax: (859) 572-2619  
DL\_CES\_CAMPBELL@EMAIL.UKY.EDU  
www.ces.ca.uky.edu/ces

# EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE *Changing Lives*



Farmers describe grape production used to make local wines.

## Extension Connects Urban Communities to Local Agriculture

*Annual farm tours invite urban residents to explore farmland and discover a wide variety of agricultural operations, taste local farm products, and promote land stewardship.*



**Cooperative Extension** works with community partners, such as the Conservation Districts, to preserve farm land and maintain the economic viability of the land base by conducting farm tours. Self-guided tours allow families to meet farmers, learn where their food comes from, taste the local products, and learn about stewardship.

A recent survey of 4-H and Future Farmers of America members, in Campbell County, shows that only 28% of members currently live on farms and the youth feel it is important to preserve their family farms, many of which are owned by their grandparents. Those youth who hope to preserve their family farms anticipate having to work full time off the farm to afford to maintain the land.

The farm tours held in **Campbell, Boone, and Kenton** counties; had over 5,000 participants last year. A diverse variety of agricultural operations were included in the tours such as livestock (beef, dairy, horse, sheep, goats, poultry and eggs), bees and honey, Vineyards and wineries, grain, hay and pasture, and horticulture (fruits, vegetables, and flowers). Visitors learned how to maximize growing in small spaces that could be applied at their homes to promote a healthier lifestyle, supported the local food system as they purchased farm products, as well as, considered starting a farm operation.

Preservation of farmland base impacts the ecosystem, wildlife habitats, and flood prevention as well as the rural character of the county. Similar farm tours are being organized in other parts of Kentucky.



*Families experience local livestock operations and learn about the responsibilities of raising an animal.*

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*Plasticulture vegetable production is used for conservation, weed control and extending the growing season.*