EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE
Changing Lives
IN FLOYD COUNTY

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

The leaders of the Floyd County Extension District Board and County Extension Council along with input from the our program councils determined need for additional space, a better location, and additional parking to better meet the needs of our clientele. So after several years of hard work and planning by the leaders and Extension staff, a new Floyd County Extension Office building has been completed. The building officially opened in September. It has 8,750 square feet of office and meeting spaces with plenty of parking and a small commercial kitchen for clientele use. The location also has additional space for additional growth and/or usage in the future. The building will serve as a community meeting place for educational and community groups. An official Open House will be held in December to show the new building to our clientele and recognize our leaders for their hard work and efforts.

We would like to especially thank all of the officers and members of the Floyd County Extension District Board. They have put in a lot of long hours and provide excellent leadership during this year. They are as follows: Tyrone Martin, Chairman; Joyce Allen, Vice-Chair; Kim Grubb, Secretary; Kermit Howard, Treasurer; Joe Ryan, Assistant Treasurer; Melissa Perry, member; Dwight Slone, member; Gary Perkins, member; and Robert Marshall, County Judge Executive.

Priority Program Efforts

A total of 182 people are now involved in addressing significant community issues

200 youth made an impact in their community through service projects

86 local residents implemented practices that promote sustainable agriculture

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

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

2987 citizens (youth & adults) acknowledged utilizing the skills learned through Extension programming

A total of 463 individuals reported making lifestyle changes (diet, exercise, managing stressors, healthy home practices, etc.) for the purpose of improving their health

A total of 300 youth and adults demonstrated informed and effective decision-making skills

112 individuals incorporated new or additional conservation practices.
Horticulture

Extension has been involved with home gardeners and small scale producers. We strive to educate them about horticultural crops and their production. Several educational programs were offered to those interested in home and commercial vegetable production. Because of these efforts, twenty-seven individuals are produced vegetable crops for the first time this year.

Several individuals are producing fruits and vegetables for their families use and marketing the excess. These producers have reported saving to their families in the amount of $16,500 from being able to provide fresh vegetables verses purchasing them. In addition, eighteen producers are growing small fruits (brambles, strawberries, and blueberries) for the first time this year. The reformed Floyd County Farmers Market officially opened for its third year. The market provides another outlet for the sale of excess produce. The market had sells in excess of $25,000 during the 2012 season and nearly doubled that in 2013. The market increased its membership by 140% this year.

Hay & Pasture Improvement

Feeding makes up a large part of the cost of a livestock enterprise. Getting the most out of your hay and pastures can help save on feed costs. Educational programs were planned and conducted to inform and assist local livestock producers about how best to improve their available hay and pasture lands.

Some of the topics covered were grass and legume selection, seedling methods, proper renovation techniques, and management of lands for best production. Over thirty producers participated in this program. Through collaboration and sponsorship from the local County Farm Bureau and County Conservation District, all thirty producers received either 50 pounds of certified orchard grass seed or 25 pounds of certified red clover seed. This seed was used to plant or renovated over 100 acres of hay and/or pasture lands.

“When people tell me I have a green thumb, I tell them it really has more to do with dirty hands”
~ Unknown
LETS Participants Earn College Credit

The Floyd County 4-H Program believes that High schools serve as a bridge for student transition to adult life. Upon completion of high school, students have formed habits they will carry with them the rest of their lives. One important goal of all high schools is to produce graduates who will be responsible, productive lifelong learners. By striving to instill a positive work ethic in our students, we will help ensure their futures as responsible, productive lifelong learners.

The Floyd County Cooperative Extension Service and the Floyd County 4-H Program believes that there is a direct relationship between work ethic that young people display in school and their future success. The Floyd County 4-H Program partnered with Big Sandy Community and Technical College, the Floyd County Chamber of Commerce and the Floyd County Board of Education to offer the LETS (Learning Ethics Through Service) program. High school seniors had the opportunity to learn about ethics in the work place, education and community. They were asked to complete a total of 15 hours of volunteered time working in a field of study they may be interested in pursuing in the future. The 40 students completed 1,045 hours of volunteer time in what they hope is their future career. The participants who completed their 15 hours by Christmas break had the opportunity to enroll in a free college class GEN 120 – Service Learning offered by Big Sandy Community and Technical college. Of the 40 students who participated in the LETS program 23 finished their 15 hours to qualify for the free college class and completed their class earning 3 college credit hours.

Jack Friar Memorial Scholarship

Jack Friar worked as an Extension Agricultural Agent for the University of Kentucky in 4-H; and became one of the first full time 4-H Agents in the state and retired after 30 plus years of service.

Jack Friar was “The Stepping Stone” for Floyd County 4-H and is a man who many will always remember as their 4-H Agent. Floyd County 4-H lost a great man on April 1, 2010. Jack was many things to many people; he encouraged many youth to continue their education and to pursue their dreams. Another one of Jack’s passions was 4-H camp. In honor of Jack the Floyd County 4-H Council has set up the Jack Friar Memorial Scholarship Fund. This fund will go towards helping the youth of Floyd County who cannot afford to attend 4-H camp each summer. From 2010 to the summer of 2013 the scholarship fund has collected $9,304.00, which has provided 132 youth with a scholarship to attend 4-H Camp each summer.
Economic Development

Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent in partnership with a regional non-profit educator offered the Entrepreneurial Smarts for small business course. Ten participants completed the in-depth four week program’s curriculum. As a result of participation and completion of this course; four participants who were not in business expressed written goals to seek a small business loan and plan to open their businesses. Two existing proprietors plan to secure small business funds through available funding sources availed in the training. Another participant plans to pursue a home cleaning service business, developed an initial business plan, and plans to pursue funding upon retirement. Respondents expressed increased knowledge in areas of employee relations, loan processing and acquisition, the process of developing a business plan, skills necessary for operation of a small business, and that the ultimate responsibility and legal ramifications fall upon the owners of businesses.

Work Place Wellness

At the request of a Floyd County major employer, the Cooperative Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Agent taught a six month weekly healthy living educational program; University of Kentucky Extension Curriculum materials were utilized. Prevention and lifestyle changes were the primary focus with significant outcomes achieved. Participants reported changes that included: one man stated “when I started this I drank 9 bottles of Mountain Dew each day, now I allow only 1 among non-breakfast eaters - 80 % now eat breakfast, 90% eliminated late night snacking, changed from refined starches to whole grains, consistently ate smaller portions especially less starches and carbohydrates during lunch and dinner meals, and 84% of participants chose fruits and vegetables as healthier snacks. One participant who suffers from heart disease reported that “my blood pressure is way down and my doctor and I are thrilled”. Due to the multiple changes were made and in lifestyle, the total weight loss was 77.2 pounds. Due to behaviors the enthusiasm. Extensions education programs will continue quarterly and annually.

Food and nutrition for families comprises significant FCS program focus. The picture shows grandparents and grandkids at our Farmers Market “Kids Day” focused on nutritional art, reading and vegetable varieties.