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.

HONORING OUR PAST

Billy Merritt  Jack Friar  Donald Hicks

Arnold Lowe  Frances Pitts  Kermit Howard

First Extension Hall of Fame Inductees

During our annual Extension Awards and Recognition Banquet, the County Extension Council inducted six individuals into the new Extension Hall of Fame. The leaders and agents honored were long time supporters and leaders of our program. Those inductees were Arnold Lowe, Billy Merritt, Kermit Howard, Donald J Hicks, Frances Pitts, and Jack Friar. Their past efforts are the foundation of today’s Extension Service. Since all the inductees had passed on, their families were present to accept the honor on their behalf.

Priority Program Efforts

A total of 333 people are now involved in addressing significant community issues

75 youth made an impact in their community through service projects

71 local residents implemented practices that promote sustainable agriculture

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

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

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

A total of 3,000 individuals reported making lifestyle changes (diet, exercise, managing stressors, healthy home practices, etc.) for the purpose of improving their health

A total of 105 youth and adults demonstrated informed and effective decision-making skills

82 individuals incorporated new or additional conservation practices.
Floyd County Beekeepers Association off to a good start

Extension has had increased interest in beekeeping and the need to try and preserve this tradition. Over the last few years, more than seventy participants have attended our beekeeping programs. Last fall, several interested individuals with the assistance from Extension, organized and formed the Floyd County Beekeepers Association.

Some of topics covered at their bi-monthly meeting were promotion of the honey bee especially its importance to agriculture and the entire economy, beginning beekeeping, making honey, queen rearing, hive diseases, insect problems and prevention of wildlife damage. The association has normal attendance of thirty members and nearly sixty for special events. Their annual meeting event was co-sponsored by the County Extension Service and the County Farm Bureau Federation. Farm Bureau provided six bee packages as door prizes for the event. This program is responsible for bringing several new hives of bees into the county and bringing new beekeepers into the association. At the end of these programs, participants were asked to evaluate the programs. The overall rating was a ninety percent with the participants stating that eighty percent of them gained knowledge. There continues to be an increase in the interest in beekeeping in the county and the numbers involved are expected to keep rising.

Local Horticulture is still growing

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, forty individuals are producing vegetable crops for the first time this year. More than half are low income producers. These individuals are producing fruits and vegetables for their families use and marketing the excess. In addition, eleven producers are growing small fruits (brambles, strawberries, and blueberries) for the first time this year. The Floyd County Farmers Market officially opened in May 2014 for its fourth year. The market provides another outlet for the sale of excess produce. The market had sells which increased by 76% during the 2014 season. The members expect the growth to continue next session. The market has also had a 40% increase in its membership that year. The market was voted “Best in Kentucky” by the AFT for the second year in a row; in addition, it increased to fourth national this year. These program activities teach the participants that many agricultural operations can be successful on small parcels of land.

Quote: Extract from Thomas Jefferson to John Jay

Cultivators of the earth are the most valuable citizens. They are the most vigorous, the most independent, the most virtuous, & they are tied to their country & wedded to its liberty & interests by the most lasting bands.
Enrichment Camp

Floyd County Extension Homemakers served as Enrichment Camp Chairs and coordinating leaders for the 2013 and 2014 camps. The Floyd County Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences served as the Agent Advisor in conjunction with 40 county and area Homemaker leaders. A redesigned and shortened timeframe was introduced in 2014. The positive friendly atmosphere for the event resulted in a 57 percent increase in Homemaker attendance and participation. Twelve leader instructors taught classes side-by-side with 7 Agents and 1 Horticulture Assistant. An increase in overnight campers increased by 51 percent. The increased number attending enabled cost containment needed during tough economic times by Homemakers and their families. In written evaluations, Homemaker leaders reiterated enthusiastic comments about camp that included: “friendly, well-organized, great fellowship, skills to share back in the counties, excellent instructors, saving money making gift items using skills learned.” Two veteran campers summed up their thoughts as follows: “I was impressed with the camps’ organization, comfortable, and friendly atmosphere.” As one other experienced camper shared: “The 2014 camp was especially fun to me. I liked the shortened schedule and loved the welcoming spirit Floyd County Agent and leaders fostered, which we love about camp, it does enrich our lives and gives us stress relief (from daily demands) along with the fellowship and creative process in learning with other Homemakers.”

Certified Commercial Kitchen

A high percentage of home-based (food) processors use unsafe food safety and manufacturing practices; thus putting their products in high risk categories for potential contamination, food-borne illness and possible related deaths, injury and economic losses, should improper procedures be utilized. According to the Department of Public Health, numerous local individuals make and sell baked goods (for profit) without proper licensure, sanitary kitchens, without use of proper Certified Commercial Kitchen facilities. In efforts to combat improper manufacturing, the Floyd County Cooperative Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Agent worked independently with prospective start-up “home-based food and/or Microprocessor entrepreneurs.” Four individuals completed the University of Kentucky, School of Human Environmental Sciences “Home-Based Microprocessor Training.” The commercial kitchen certification was secured for the Floyd County Extension kitchen. Procedures and policies were developed for use of the facility. The Certified Commercial kitchen served as the “pilot” site for development of one locally produced and sold dairy product. This manufacturer obtained the required supplemental “dairy product” certification, product ingredient labeling, and Kentucky Proud Certification, with guidance from the Family and Consumer Sciences Agent, in collaboration with the State Inspection Division of Food Manufacturing, and the local Health Department Inspector. The approved product was sold through direct-to-consumer sampling, internet marketing, and to consumers at multiple Farmer’s Market venues. Product production yielded $3500.00 in retail sales during the initial production and marketing phase.
A New Reality

For the 2014-2015 school year, Floyd County 4-H partnered with the Floyd County Board of Education, Family Resource Youth Service Center Directors, Guidance Counselors and Community Partners for our six public middle schools to present “Welcome to Reality.” We had the opportunity to “welcome” our 8th graders to the world of “reality.” Each 8th grader was presented with the “World of Work II” book to complete and in order to help them figure out which of the 14 career cluster their dream job falls under. This book gives the students the opportunity to figure out a career, look to their future self and assess what they would like as a future career. 4-H Youth Development Agent, Heather Nelson, went to each school and presented a career program to tie into the workbook. Then, after completing their ILP, the students were assigned a career that they were most interested in pursuing for the future. At the Reality Store, 40 community volunteers helped them navigate through the world of reality, visiting Uncle Sam, opening a bank account, buying or leasing a car, rent or owning a home and many more everyday life choices that teenagers sometimes do not think about. “Students had an eye opening experience today to see what the real world is like. Some of them have no clue what real life has in store for them,” Brian Akers, BLES FRYSC Director. Many students went away learning what the future holds for them and what they need to change in the school and personal habits. One student at SFMS said she was going to try harder in school to get her grades up, so she could have a better education to get the career she truly wants.

Physics Zoo

Over the duration of just one year, the Floyd County 4-H Physics Zoo has more than doubled. In 2014, the Physics Zoo was given a test run in one school, Betsy Layne Elementary, with the entire 7th grade class a total of 62. The students loved the hands on approach to learning science. Majority of the kids walked away saying that everything they had learned in science class that year made much more sense after seeing and experimenting with the Physics Zoo. The Physics Zoo allows the students to learn more about mirrors, circuits, motors, magnetism, etc. With the enjoyment and knowledge the students at BLES gained from the Physics Zoo, in 2015 the Physics Zoo was opened up to the rest of the schools within the county. In 2015 we had four schools participate (Adams Middle, Allen Central Middle, Betsy Layne Elementary, and John M. Stumbo) with a total of 293. Students at the schools thoroughly enjoyed the learning experience. In 2016 the Floyd County 4-H Physics Zoo hopes to continue at the participating schools and to reach remaining schools in the county.