EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE
Changing Lives
IN GREEN COUNTY
Extension provides practical education you can trust by helping individuals, families, businesses, and communities solve problems, develop skills, and build a better future.

Farm & Home Expo
In a small rural community, advertising and marketing options for businesses are expensive and rare. The Green County Cooperative Extension Service sought a way to promote local businesses and non-profit organizations to all citizens in the community. The Extension leaders decided to offer the second community Home and Garden Expo. The Extension Council contacted local businesses and organizations requesting them to set up a complimentary booth promoting their services and products in return for a door prize to be given.

Thirty community organizations and businesses displayed and sold their products during the one day expo. A complimentary meal was provided by the Extension Council, Cattlemen’s Association and the Green County Extension Homemakers. The FCS agent & volunteers featured Plate It Up Kentucky Proud. Over 300 local citizens attended the free event. Attendees reported a desire to repeat the event next year and were amazed at the diversity of business offerings in our local community. Many attendees commented on making shopping local a priority. The vendors reported a great interest in their products and appreciated the zero cost opportunity to market their business to the community. All vendors surveyed agreed the event should be an annual event. Plans for the next Home & Garden Expo are underway.

Priority Program Efforts
A total of 1122 people are now involved in addressing significant community issues
354 youth made an impact in their community through service projects
131 local residents implemented practices that promote sustainable agriculture
183 Producers reported an economic impact (i.e., increase in agricultural productivity, increase in higher returns, decrease in expenses) in their agricultural operations
282 youth indicated an increase in leadership skills, knowledge or confidence through participation in Extension-related leadership programs
543 citizens (youth & adults) acknowledged utilizing the skills learned through Extension programming
A total of 142 individuals reported making lifestyle changes (diet, exercise, managing stressors, healthy home practices, etc.) for the purpose of improving their health
A total of 171 youth and adults demonstrated informed and effective decision-making skills
30 individuals incorporated new or additional conservation practices.
Workforce Preparation Starts Before One Looks for an Employment

Many lessons have been learned from October of 2009 when unemployment was at ten percent nationwide. One of the segments with the highest disproportionate levels of unemployment is the young adults, ages 16-24. A report from Columbia University showed that one unemployed individual drains a community of $40,000 from the economy and $14,000 in taxes annually. Skills are vital for employment; these skills cannot be taught overnight and often it requires a change in one’s paradigm. The Green County Cooperative Extension Service 4-H Program recognized that future employees must learn the value of skills, training and education in order to properly prepare them for the future workforce. Through 4-H, seventh grade youth are exposed to skills to prepare them for future employability like interviewing, budgeting and selecting career paths that allow them to achieve their desired quality of life. Each youth is challenged to earn one million dollars in their lifetime and then shown how this is easily accessible to almost everyone if they prepare themselves starting in middle school. Youth who “understood the importance of staying in school and receiving a good education” increased from 72% to 93% from their experiences with the program or thirty youth who now value training, education and skills more as a result of the program. From the Columbia University study, those youth represent a positive future benefit to the community of $1.2 million annually once employed.

{Help, Hope & Hands}

Needlework is an art that is slowing dwindling away. Needlework has many benefits to including therapeutic properties. The benefits of teaching young people needlework are numerous. Handwork develops focus and concentration. It encourages following a process in order to complete a project. It enhances critical thinking and math skills. It increases hand/eye coordination, small motor skills, and builds self-esteem. Moreover, it provides a means to promote healthy, interpersonal relationships between adults and children. Studies show that young people are less likely to engage in risky behaviors when they are bonded to trusted adults.

The FCS Extension agent and the Green County Extension Homemakers have created a program called {Help, Hope & Hands}. {Help, Hope & Hands} is a group of people of all ages who are passionate about giving back to the local community through the art of Needlework. In addition to learning how to improve personal skills in various types of needlework arts, {Help, Hope & Hands} volunteers donate time and talents to teach and create items for people in need around our community.

{Help, Hope and Hands} volunteers have taught over 45 adults and 55 children the art of needlework. Volunteers have donated 100 caps to the Green County Library for Cancer Care Packages for cancer patients and are now working on lap quilts for nursing home residents and people in wheelchairs around the community. A testimony from a quilter said it perfectly, “After several family members pasted away, I was so depressed and needed something to fill the void. I finally learned how to quilt...quilting has saved my life."

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{Help, Hope & Hands} volunteer

Seventh grade students experience "Real Life" while interviewing for a perspective job, budgeting and making monthly household expenditures.
Overnight Camps Teach Youth Independence and Life Skills

With both parents working and ever increasing demands upon adults, youth are often missing out on learning independent life skills necessary for their future success. The Green County Cooperative Extension Service 4-H program provides youth opportunities to learn life skills through day camps and overnight camping opportunities in a structured environment with positive adult and teen role models. Day camping programs include project related events like Forestry, Safety Days and Cooking Schools; overnight camping includes teen retreats, leadership conferences and summer camp. In Green County, over five hundred youth participated in a camping program sponsored by 4-H. From surveys, 69% of the youth reported helping others “most” or “all” of the time; a carrying, empathetic community can solve its own problems. Making new friends was identified by 92% of the campers showing their ability to interact positively with their community. The ability to take a skill learned in the camping environment and transfers it to a home or school application was noted by 89% of the youth demonstrating logical problem solving abilities. 4-H camping programs teach youth new skills and prepare them to handle to be productive, caring adults.

Agriculture in Green County

This past year, the Green County Agricultural and Natural Resource program held several meetings and/or events in different program areas that were a great success for our county in agriculture. Such as dairy short course, beef course, grain meeting, tobacco meeting, equine meeting, and forages program. Programs such as these play a big role in Green County’s success in production agriculture.

2012 Agriculture Statistics for Green County

Agriculture statistics for Green County shows that last year tobacco is still the #1 cash crop. With 2,380 acres planted last year and an average of 2,015lbs/acre, Green County produced over 4,795,000lbs of tobacco. Corn coming in #2 spot, with 9,700 acres planted. Averaging 70 bushel/acre, there was 679,000 bushels of corn harvested. #3 is Soybeans. Having 7,800 acres of soybeans planted and an average of 53 bushel/acre, we harvested over 413,000 bushels of soybeans. Next are forages. There were 33,500 acres harvested and averaged of 2.5 tons/acre, with a total of 83,750 tons of forages. Also we have over 18,500 head of adult beef cattle and over 1,800 head of adult dairy cattle here in Green County.

As one can see agriculture takes a leading role in Green County. Over the past three years all of these statistics has increased about 10% except for dairy cattle, which has decreased about 5%. These are the top 6 areas of production agriculture in Green County, but there are many other agriculture commodities such as vegetable and fruit production, goats, equine, swine, poultry, etc.
The Merchant Mile

There is a need for local people to support the businesses in Green County. Moreover, there is a greater need for places to be physically active in downtown Greensburg. Because of this need, the Green County FCS agent has introduced the Merchant Mile in Green County. The Merchant Mile is an easily accessible walking path in downtown Greensburg created to increase foot traffic for local merchants and provide a safe opportunity for physical activity. The goal of the Merchant Mile is to provide several opportunities for Greensburg merchants and citizens. Such opportunities include improving aesthetics through window shopping, increasing foot traffic and revenue to businesses, promote health and fitness benefits to our community, endorse the community’s historical component and support the community as a healthy place to live.

Businesses that support the Merchant Mile will receive a window cling provided by the Extension Office that indicates they are Merchant Mile friendly. As Merchant Mile friendly, businesses will contribute in a way they see fit such as providing bottled water to walkers, offer specials during certain times of the day, open their restrooms for walkers, or provide a place to sit down, among many other ideas. As of July 2013, The Merchant Mile has 39 businesses participating in the program. The local merchants are extremely excited about this opportunity to market Green County as well as provide their businesses free publicity and foot traffic on the square.

C.A.I.P.

As the agriculture industry changes from year to year, the Green County Agriculture Development Board has been extremely active in using Phase 1 tobacco funding to help producers introduce, improve, and expand their enterprises with the latest techniques and technologies. The Green County board was able to invest $340,000 in the County Agricultural Investment Program, or C.A.I.P., over the last year to help aid 84 producers. 160 projects were funded ranging from agriculture diversification, large & small animal, farm infrastructure, fencing, forage & grain, on-farm energy, and technology. With each project averaging $2100 the average producer received over $3500 of funding. With many of the producers investing well more than their 50% required match in the program, over $680,000 was invested in Green County agriculture this year.

THE GREEN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Changing Lives Extending Knowledge

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