such aircraft manually. To demonstrate this fact, presenters incorporated the use of small quad rotor remote controlled aircraft and oversaw a competition between classroom instructors from each respective class. Students were able to vote for the instructor that they believed “flew” better when piloting the quad rotors. Student interests, enthusiasm, and energy were observed in unique fashion also when the primary unmanned aerial system was displayed following the previously discussed competition.

Several community projects have resulted from AIB including exit ramp beautification, downtown pot project, Madisonville cleanup day, expansion of county recycle program, and many others. Hopkins County Extension serves in many roles and continues to provide leadership.

The most amazing part of AIB’s impact on Madisonville is that it has brought together the city, county, several volunteer groups, the downtown businesses, the Chamber of Commerce, Tourism, and hundreds of residents and focused them towards a common goal. Currently, the AIB team, along with other volunteer groups, are developing a city wide master plan to help plan, direct, and coordinate all beautification efforts throughout the area.

2014 awards include Environmental Awareness Award and special mention for the multiple “Art Parks”. Madisonville is judged with over 40 cities across the nation.

The Hopkins County Cooperative Extension Service helps lead Madisonville as a member of the steering committee. Extension has had the opportunity to help develop a community marketing plan, coordinate several community projects and interact with the judges as they toured Madisonville every year since 2010.

New Family & Consumer Sciences Agent in Hopkins County

Katherine Jury began work with the Hopkins County Cooperative Extension in July of this year. Katherine obtained her undergraduate degree in Family and Consumer Sciences and Early Childhood Education from Eastern Kentucky University, and is currently finishing a Master’s degree in Family Sciences at the University of Kentucky. She, her husband, and dog, Molly are avid UK fans, enjoy spending time outdoors, and are looking forward to becoming more involved in the Hopkins Co. community they now call “home”.

Nourish Your Bones and Joints

According to the CEDIK Hopkins County Healthcare profile, 70% of adult residents of Hopkins Co. reported at least one health risk factor for bone density loss, osteoporosis, and joint deterioration. In an effort to combat these health risks, the Hopkins Co. Family & Consumer Sciences Extension Agent, in partnership with the Just Older Youth (JOY) group at the Madisonville United Methodist Church and local Taking Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) groups presented the “Nourish Your Bones and Joints” program to 38 individuals over a three month period. As a result of the program, 96% of individuals demonstrated an increase in knowledge related to ways to decrease their risk factors associated with bone and joint health. One month after the completion of the program, 86% of participants reported taking active steps as a result of the program to increase their bone and joint health. As a part of the program, participants could sign-up to receive quarterly healthy recipes and other wellness-related information to continue to learn new ways to combat health risks.

Changing Lives

IN HOPKINS COUNTY

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

Priority Program Efforts

A total of 433 people are now involved in addressing significant community issues

- 675 youth made an impact in their community through service projects
- 22 local residents implemented practices that promote sustainable agriculture

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

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

- 789 children (youth & adults) acknowledged utilizing the skills learned through Extension programming

A total of 418 individuals reported making lifestyle changes (diet, exercise, managing stressors, healthy home practices, etc.) for the purpose of improving their health

A total of 201 youth and adults demonstrated informed and effective decision-making skills
Youth can gain so much through community service! They can learn the value of helping others, develop personal life skills, learn to cooperate, build self-confidence, develop problem-solving and decision-making skills, through real-world situations and develop a sense of being responsible and part of something.

13 Hopkins County 4-H Youth and two adults served on a 2013-14 Relay for Life Team. The team members had fundraisers, met to make items to sell at the Relay event, made decisions on what to sell, what type of fund-raiser event to host, who would take on certain roles for the event, how the team would dress and planned a schedule for the evening.

All members worked the Relay for Life event at the Hopkins County 4-H Booth. The 4-H Relay for life team raised over $1,200.00 for Cancer research! The total volunteer hours reached equals approximately 300 hours, which equals $5,373.00 in monetary value. That time was spent giving directly back into the Hopkins County Community. Hopkins County 4-H Youth also participate in community service projects in their specific clubs and through The United Way of the Coalfield. 4-H is a United Way Agency and 4-H Youth work hard to give back through the United Way.

With the growing number of careers in the Science, Engineering and Technology field, it is becoming more important to begin exposing youth to the subject matter as much as possible and in a variety of ways. Job skills, such as team work and communication are also important for well-rounded potential employees. To educate 4-H members about Science, Engineering and Technology, as well as other curriculum areas and job skills, McLean, Webster, Hopkins and Logan County 4-H Programs joined together to plan and coordinate the Team Challenge Camp, a 2 day camp held at West KY 4-H Camp. The camp format was created to be very similar to the TV Reality Show “The Amazing Race” where participants were given a set of coordinates and had to use GPS units to find the location of their challenge. Once they reached their destination, they were given directions for a specific task that they must complete as a team. Once completed, teams were given a set of coordinates for their next team challenge. On the first evening of the event, campers were educated on the GPS units and how they worked. They also were given several mini-challenges and ice breaker activities so that they could get to know other campers before the “Challenge” on the following day.

Fifty-eight 4-H members in 5th & 6th grade were divided into teams and had to work together to complete 8 different challenges. Challenges were created using the 7 4-H core curriculum areas (Science, Engineering and Technology, Family and Consumer Science, Health, Communications and Leadership), however each task did challenge participants both physically and mentally.

Throughout the course of the camp, participants were pedometers to track the level of activity. On average, 4-H members walked approximately 10,000 steps during the Team Challenge, which is the recommended amount of steps per day. Following the event both participants and leaders completed surveys. Two of the most common answers for most valuable lesson learned during the event were the value of both verbal and non-verbal communication skills and teamwork. Many of the participants found that at first it was difficult to work with people that they did not know, but quickly realized how important it was to overcome that barrier in order to be successful as a team. Participants also commented on the amount of physical activity that was involved with the event and noted that they realized how much physical activity they were lacking in their daily routines.

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Ag in the Air
Production factors, risk assessment, and changing production climates correctly describe the nature and overall record of the 2014 production season. As for Agriculture Extension in Hopkins County, the same can be said. Technology and more importantly its utilization, continues to be an overall driving factor in the environmental and fiscal sustainability of the county’s farming operations.

Weather and insect pressure during the 2014 production season was noted to be both a challenge and a blessing for Hopkins county producers depending on a producer’s specific location in the county. Areas south and west of Madisonville experienced less than average rainfall during the months of June through August according to the KY Mesonet climate data web service. With that said county crop yields were consistently above average and in many areas rivaled the historic yields of 2013.

Agriculture extension efforts continued to provide programming throughout the 2014 calendar year that highlighted both economic production data and time sensitive information relevant to all production areas. Programs that were implemented during the 2014 season were the Multi-County Poultry Litter Project, Hopkins County Corn Hybrid Test Plot, Unmanned Aerial Systems research, Producer Crop Scouting projects, and a fall Cover Crop Study.

Unmanned Aerial Systems research drew plenty of attention and interest among local producers as the program sought to gain producer insight, interest, and overall perceptions of this new emerging technology in the field of agriculture. With funding acquired from the Barnhart Fund for Excellence Award, research is ongoing towards the establishment and effectiveness of cost-efficient UAVs to allow farmers access to this new technology without the added risks of return-on-investment for items of more complexity. Systems range from three hundred dollars per unit to in-excess of twenty thousand dollars depending on equipment used, startup costs, and size of machinery. With that said, youth programs were also developed and implemented at the 2014 Youth Ag Day sponsored by the Hopkins County Conservation District.

Exhibits at the 2014 Youth Ag day highlighted both the autonomous features of the technology, but also the limiting factors that can lead to errors when flying...