

EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE

Changing Lives



IN JOHNSON 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 Field Day drew a huge crowd this year! It was held at the Elam Farm in a fully finished barn full of antique farming and country life memorabilia and historical photos.

The Johnson County Extension Service has had a very busy year. We started off as planned but were unexpectedly diverted from course when tragic flash flooding struck the county. Securing food, shelter, and resources for victims became top priority and all three agents temporarily devoted their time and resources to helping. Recovery efforts are not complete, but we were grateful to have the ability to help when it mattered most.

Summer wrapped up with the annual Farm & Home Field Day, a much needed day of fun for many. This year focused on wildlife and fishing management. Agriculture brought in a Kentucky State University aquaculture specialist to discuss farm pond management for fish production and a UK forage specialist and a Kentucky Department of Agriculture hay testing technician to discuss forage management; 4-H Shooting Sports offered archery safety instruction and hands-on range shooting for youth participants; and FCS showcased our cultural attributes and provided art activities for children.

Priority Program Efforts

A total of 61 people are now involved in addressing significant community issues

732 youth made an impact in their community through service projects

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

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

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

A total of 250 individuals reported making lifestyle changes (diet, exercise, managing stressors, healthy home practices, etc.) for the purpose of improving their health

A total of 54 youth and adults demonstrated informed and effective decision-making skills

4 individuals incorporated new or additional conservation practices.

Family and Consumer Sciences— Agent Brenda Cockerham

This year, Family and Consumer Sciences celebrates the culmination of over 15 years of diligent work in the preservation of the history and culture of Johnson County and the region.

The project began when over 500 citizens throughout the county voiced their opinions through an effort launched by the Chamber of Commerce and UK Cooperative Extension called “Johnson County Visions.” Two of the top 10 values of participants were to preserve the history and culture of the region and to use tourism to help market this positive image. The FCS Council began addressing this concern by asset mapping all of the locations and cultural attributes the citizens valued most and around 15 sites were identified. Preservations plans were created and leaders were identified and their strengths and skills were developed, marketing products were commissioned and created, grants were written and programs were established to achieve the overall preservation mission. Saving the historic Stafford House, utilizing the Old Oil Springs School, preserving the sites and stories related to historic and valuable people such as Jenny Wiley, John C.C. Mayo, Loretta Lynn, and Hylo Brown were all a part of the plan. FCS is excited to report that most of the efforts made have had significant impact on the creation of a solid foundation for cultural preservation in Johnson County, for the Route 23 Cultural Heritage Network now manages the majority of these efforts. For a more detailed report on this and other FCS program efforts, view our website at <http://johnson.ca.uky.edu> and visit us at [facebook.com/JohnsonCountyExtensionFCS](https://www.facebook.com/JohnsonCountyExtensionFCS).

Leadership Development is always an important strategy for maintaining the success of the FCS program. Fifty-five leaders were active this year and took charge of a variety of programs ranging from



The mural adorned façade of the Old Oil Springs School, now dubbed the Oil Springs Cultural Arts and Recreation Center.

“The OSCAR is Johnson County's best kept secret. If you have never been there you don't know what you're missing. Love the time I have spent there and the beautiful art work that is done there and the culture that is kept and passed down.”

- Charolette Caudill, Homemaker President

Foods and Nutrition lessons at Highland Elementary, Heritage Days, Holiday Happenings, the preservation of and events at the Stafford House, Culinary Arts, OSCAR programming such as the Festival of Artists, the Cultural Heritage Network, and a number of programs through the Johnson County Extension Homemakers. In fact, our Extension Homemakers lead in volunteer service hours not only in the FCS program and in Johnson County, but also in the KEHA state organization! Together we are working to make the homes and families throughout Johnson County, happier and healthier, and the communities a great place to live.



Extension volunteer Christina Lauterwasser demonstrates spinning at Farm & Home Field Day.

Through her volunteerism, Christina was able to gain experience that helped her secure employment at the Mountain HomePlace.

Agriculture & Natural Resources— Agent Brian Jeffiers

Agricultural programming has covered a wide array of enterprises this year. In addition to continuing long-standing programs such as annual heifer pregnancy checks and bull soundness examinations, new events were undertaken as well.

The most exciting new program has been the Integrated Reproductive Management program for cattle farmers. Three farmers have been approved to participate in a long-term research and advisory program with UK specialists. The focus of these efforts is to elevate the quality of the farm's reproductive program. Important components of the program include proper pregnancy checking via blood testing, shortening the calving season, and reviewing the benefits of a transition to fall calving from spring or year-round calving. The goal is to improve profitability by increasing marketability, reducing death loss, and boosting herd health.

Regular workshops for beekeepers in the county have been initiated this year. Four sessions gave these producers the chance to learn about state and University resources available to them as well as about winter preparation, managing swarming, and monitoring queen behavior.

Another series of sessions educated farmers about legal issues. The Farmers' Law School covered four topics over the span of the summer. The first was environmental issues in light of the Waters of the United States legislation. Another covered liability topics, such as in the case of farm visitors during agritourism activities. The third topic was highway issues. On that night, farmers learned about weight and length restrictions, interstate issues, and licensing requirements. The final night involved estate planning and what steps to take to provide inheritance, long-term health care, and tax advice.

Fresh Eggs in Johnson County

The ongoing concern over avian flu and overall food safety issues pertaining to eggs has spurred many families to begin producing eggs to sell to neighbors and friends. Several Johnson County families have begun this enterprise, with some selling eggs at the Farmers' Market. In order to avoid legal issues surrounding foodborne illnesses, the Johnson County Extension Service hosted an egg production workshop that included instruction on proper egg handling, packaging, and storage. Sixteen producers were in attendance and have reported not only learning at the workshop, but also utilizing that knowledge in their sale of eggs both from home and from the Farmers' Market.

The Farmers' Market continued to grow this year. Seventeen producers were trained on how to accept the USDA vouchers for low-income senior citizens, and several new faces appeared as vendors this summer. The Extension District invested in a walk-in cooler at the market so that eggs and other perishable goods could be sold safely. Two customer appreciation events were held to boost attendance, and until late-summer weather impacted production, the season was one of our strongest ever.



Buyers at the 2015 Johnson County Farmers' Market lined up for fresh, colorful vegetables from John Sparks, a very popular producer in the county.

4-H Youth Development— Agent Dianna Reed

4-H is a community of youth learning Leadership, Citizenship and Life Skills through core curriculum programming, 4-H project work and community service projects. Many thanks to volunteers, Adult 4-H Council and 4-H Teen Club members for major programming efforts for 4-H Youth Development.

SCHOOL CLUB HIGHLIGHTS

November of 2015 picks up the 4-H programming year midstream with 24 school clubs, 2 community clubs, 101 club officers, and over 1,160 4-H participants learning leadership, citizenship and life skills. Schools Clubs elected officers and those officers conducted monthly club meetings using parliamentary procedure. In schools clubs, 2015-16 programming was chosen in the 4-H Curriculum areas of:

- Health – 3 schools/117 members
- Animal Science, Incubation – 3 schools/178 members
- Junk Drawer Robotics – 5 schools/355 members
- Science Discovery – 2 schools/136 members
- Ucycle/Recycle – 3 schools/124 members

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Clover Kitchen TV Youth Cooking Show Segments with 4 youth chefs.
- **Free educational workshops and field trips were hosted at the Extension Office. Groups registered for Seeds, Spouts and Seedlings- 121 attendees (Natural Resources), MoneyWise - 208 attendees (Financial), Zapped- 55 attendees (Electricity), WindPower - 66 attendees (Energy), and the KDA Mobile Science Lab - 264 attendees (SET) for a total of 385 attendees.
- **Co-coordinated 8th grade Reality Store with JCMS for participation of over 300 youth and volunteers.
- **Two community clubs Teen Club (Leadership) and Shooting Sports Club (Safety) leader led. Shooting sports club entered 11 participants for the 4-H State Shooting Sports competition.
- **275 countywide 4-H projects completed, 24 projects went to the Kentucky State Fair along with 9 State Fair Variety show performers.
- **June - 50 campers/volunteers attended 4-H Camp.
- **Middle School participation at JCMS with 20 members, 4 life skill projects.
- **Middle School participation at PJHS with WindPower workshop (55 participants) Electricity workshop (66 participants).
- **Incubation projects at Paintsville Junior High, Flat Gap 3rd-6th grade, HES 4-6 grade and a Carl D. Perkins vocational training class for a total of 392 participants.

4-H Life Skills Program

The Johnson County Adult 4-H Council identified Personal Development as a program focus for the 2014-2015 Plan of Work. 4-H project work is an example of hands on life skill acquisition that began in the Fall of 2014. Extension personnel, parents, leaders and teachers all worked together to enable youth to gain valuable life skills. This year over 200 projects were entered at the school level, 60 were entered for County competition, and 24 projects were selected to advance to the Kentucky State Fair for standards judging in August of 2015. In the Danish Ribbon system, Blue means the project was an EXCELLENT representation of the project Standard, Red is GOOD and White is FAIR! Johnson County youth did well at the State Fair with 10 Blue ribbons, 12 Red Ribbons, 2 White Ribbons, a Grand Champion Ribbon for Pretzels in the Foods Category and 9 Variety Show Performers. Each year 4-H members build on the life skills they learned the year before or they try a new project and broaden their skill base.

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**The Johnson County
Cooperative
Extension Service**

*Extending
Knowledge, Changing*

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