Agriculture

The Agriculture Department offered an intense Beef Nutrition Program last year which was aimed at cattle producers who are faced with rising feed costs. This program was very well received in the Beef Cattle community and many farmers shared that they had made changes in their rations based on the information from this class.

During the past year the Agriculture Agent taught six 4-H programs which reached 357 students. These programs were the environmental day camp, livestock programs for 4-H projects, tractor safety, county hams, embroidery (4-H hatching), 4-H camp experience with Taylor Mill Elementary, and egg nutrition.

The Agriculture Agent offered small-scale production classes aimed at small land owners and farmers. The three classes were “Raising Pigs for the Home Freezer,” “Raising Poultry for Eggs and Meat,” and “Raising Meat Goats.” These low-input enterprises are becoming popular due to the recent trend in small farms. The class of 62 included many people who had never attended an extension program.

Today’s Heritage Farm “My Old Kentucky Home” Farm tour was new for May 2013. Similar to the fall tour, this program was aimed at educating the general public about the environment and farming in the area. There were approximately 500 visitors at these farms of south Kenton County.

The Beef Reproduction Efficiency program was kicked off late 2012 continuing in 2013. This two-year program is an alliance of Kenton, Boone, Campbell and Grant County Extension Offices and the University of Kentucky Beef Extension Specialists. There are four operators from Kenton County who are participating in this two-year program as these operators work closely with specialists to ensure the success of their calves.

The Kenton County Agriculture Agent has served again as part of the South Kenton Citizens Group. This group is the citizen leaders of south Kenton County whose charge is to guide the next generation. Direction 2030 NKY Area Planning Commission’s long-term planning for Kenton County. The Agriculture Agent’s primary responsibility has been to link leaders to the NKAPC and help them with the issues that face Kenton County. The Agent, along with Community Development Specialist, Dr. Lori Garkovich from the University of Kentucky, has worked closely with this group. Further, Dr. Garkovich has developed a citizens survey that will be distributed and analyzed the spring of 2014.

Horticulture

Kenton County Extension, in partnership with Campbell and Boone County Extension, offered a full-day, Beginner Grapes 101 earlier this year. 47 participants attended the program and 26 responded in a post-survey expressing how the program benefitted them in either continuing to pursue grapes or thinking about starting a vineyard considering the amount of labor and financial inputs involved in managing a successful vineyard. One participant responded, “Learned as much in four hours as I did on my own over the last two years. Follow-up bands on field days were also administered later in the season.

Earlier this year Kenton County hosted NKY Master Gardener training program. 27 eager Master Gardener interns completed the Master Gardener training program and started volunteering their time in Northern Kentucky non-profit gardens. Master Gardener volunteers at the Kenton County Cooperative Extension Service volunteered at a total of 993 hours valued at $21,940.74 by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. Additionally, Master Gardener volunteers were able to make 4,717 public contacts vol- unteering at 11 Master Gardener kiosks and through other activities. Master Gardeners helped grow over 1,500 lbs. of produce at the Kenton County Outdoor Ed Center demos garden for donation to local food pantries, and canned over 150 jars of garden foods which were later served during Extension programs.

427 participants benefited from the home gardening programs offered through Extension receiving gardening education and free seeds kits. Each garden kit was valued at $17. Seeds and supplies were donated by national seed companies for Extension for free; and, therefore, approximately $7,259 worth of garden seed resources were distributed throughout the community at no cost from Extension’s budget. The value of produce grown from seeds surpasses the value of the seed alone greatly.

Agroecology is an increasing interest among Kenton County farmers, and has proven of interest to local consumers as well. With “local” being a buzz word in agriculture among other consumer goods, Kenton County Extension and 13 local farmers worked together to facilitate the second annual Kenton County Farm Harvest Tour to promote what agricultural and horticultural farm goods the county has to offer. Over 1,200 participants visited local farms to learn more on Kenton County Farm Tour day in September.

The Northern Kentucky Public Workers’ Tree Seminar offered three Kentucky Pesticide Credits and an opportunity for 25.75 International Society of Arboriculture Credits. Updates on tree pest and disease, including forecasts for Emerald Ash Borer and Asian Long Horned Beetle, were given by Extension specialists. In addition a tree climbing and chainsaw safety lesson was demonstrated by Bartlett Tree Service. This program is offered through a partnership with the NKY Urban Forestry Council. The total savings or gain estimated from implementing tree care recommendations from Public Workers’ seminars administered by Extension in the past two years, was reported at $367,000 collectively by surveyed participants.

Extension supported and mentored seven Community Gardens and three School Gardens this year offering horticulture education, free soil test, free seeds, equipment leasing, mentorship, and recruitment tools for garden leaders and members.

26 home gardener education classes were offered last year. Participants reported adapting new gardening techniques and practices and money savings as a result of learned material. Additionally, 11 youth specific horticulture learning opportunities were offered to the public.

15 Horticulture Therapy sessions were offered both at the Outdoor Ed Center and at local life care centers.

Extension offered recommendations for approximately 342 horticulture soil samples this year free charge to the public.

The Horticulture Agent made approximately 13,228 horticulture related contacts this year.

Horticulture

Kenton Co. Outdoor Ed Center Gardens. Demo Plot managed by NKY Master Gardener.

For more information, contact us at:
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Fax: (859) 356-0363
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The Kenton County Cooperative Extension Service
Extending Knowledge, Changing Lives

In Kenton County

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

In 2014, the Kenton County Cooperative Extension Service, along with the Cooperative Extension System statewide and nationwide celebrate the Smith-Lever Act, which established the Cooperative Extension Service, a unique educational partnership between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the nation’s land-grant universities that extends research-based knowledge through a state-by-state network of extension educators. For 100 years, the Smith-Lever Act has stimulated innovative research and vital educational programs for youth and adults through progressive information delivery systems that improved lives and shaped a nation. Join us as we celebrate 100 years of Extension knowledge and changing lives. Throughout this year we will be commemorating this anniversary at various events. Contact us to join the celebration!


Priority Program Efforts

• A total of 42 people are now involved in addressing significant community concerns.

• 38 youth made an impact in their community through service projects

• 25 local residents implemented practices that promote sustainable agriculture

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

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

• 1,948 citizens (youth & adults) acknowledged utilizing the skills learned through Extension programming

• A total of 85 individuals reported Making lifestyle changes (diet, exercise, managing stressors, healthy home practices, etc.) for the purpose of improving their health

• A total of 665 youth and adults demonstrated informed and effective decision-making skills

4-H Youth Development

• Instructed 87 members in sewing projects ranging from beginning to advanced clothing construction, quilting and home accessory projects.

• Educated 41 youth in 4-H Babysitting Basics classes including infant and child development, safety and first aid and child guidance techniques.

• Showcased 21 4-Hers who modeled in the Fashion Revue as part of the 4-H Spring Showcase. Nine youth planned the event and three others created the dessert for the 150 attendees.

• 945 participated in consumer and financial education programs where youth learned to “Think before they buy.”

• Engaged 68 youth in horse programs including drill team, county, district and state horse shows, contests, horse scholarship opportunities and the riding/driving recognition program.

• Instructed 250 youth in healthy food choices, safety and physical activity.

• 200 youth participated in 19 summer day camp programs.

• 16 youth sewed pillowcases and 4-H donated over 88 to a local homeless shelter. 4-H has donated 345 pillowcases to date.

• 78,149 educational contacts were made by 4-H agents and assistants.

• Kenton County won the Grand Champion award in the 1-8 year category of the Sewing Skillathon, as well as the Grand Champion Quilt.

4-H Development
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT continued

- Engaged 16 minority and under-served youth in home environment projects during after-school sessions.
- Had 687 4-H youth projects entered in the Kenton County Fair and 113 projects advance to the Kentucky State Fair.
- 66 moms and daughters participated in Guide’s to Greatness self-esteem program.
- Led 83 school clubs that met 747 times with 2,195 youth participants. These clubs focused on leadership development, world culture, natural resources, weather, nutrition and consumer education.
- Engaged 745 Kenton County youth in public speaking and Demonstrations; 147 advanced to the County Communication Event, 15 advanced to the Multi-County Communication Event, and six participants advanced to the state level.
- Involved 287 middle school youth participants in "Step Up to Leadership" school enrichment programs.
- 38 underserved children attended “Incredible Eddies,” where they learned healthy eating habits.
- Engaged 112 volunteers and campers in overnight 4-H camp.
- 40 girls participated in be friendship focused program.
- 45 youth participated in science fun program.
- 15 youth participated in new leadership program.
- 4-H Youth Development served 5,526 youth participants.
- Served 466 Community Club members who participated in a variety of activities including market animals, production animals, companion animals, gardening, science, arts, photography, home economics, foods, speeches and demonstrations.
- Involved 188 4-H adults as club leaders, project leaders, activity volunteers and event judges.
- 4-H’s Natural Resource Program reached more than 680 Kenton County youth and 40 adults, in the classroom, during after-school programs, during overnight environmental camp, and during day camp programs, providing 137 lessons of direct education. Youth were introduced to natural resources, and how the knowledge and skills they learn can positively impact the natural world we inhabit.
- Kenton County 4-H Program partnered with the Kenton County School District (Simon Kenton & Dixie Heights), Ludlow Independent Schools, Erlanger—Elsmere Independent (Lloyd & Tichnor), and Covington Independent School District to plan and implement 4-H Reality Stores for 1146 eighth and ninth grade students. 131 community volunteers were involved in conducting the program which provides students with the simulated experience of providing the financial support for their simulated family for one month.
- 4-H’s Chick incubation program reached 576 youth in 16 classrooms and via the 4-H Club. Students and 4-H members, K-4th grade are introduced to the science of living things and lifecycle development, the knowledge they acquire impacts their interaction with their own living space. Opportunity to observe the incubation process, understand the basic needs of an organism and provide care for the chicks, all provided measurable indicators of progress.

48 youth members participated in production agriculture projects as well as including parents/guardians and siblings in the projects. As a result of education and animal programs, 4-H members were able to identify the strengths and weaknesses of their animals indicating knowledge of breeds and genetic differences, while being interviewed in the show ring as well as written tests during livestock judging/skillathon competitions. 4-H livestock members were also able to explain how they solve health and management problems they encountered with their project animals to livestock judges evaluating market classes as well as when asked to explain verbally during showmanship classes and in writing in their record book stories. 4-H members also marketed and sold their project animals as well as value added country ham projects to 34 different buyers of products. 4-H members demonstrated marketing, presentation, management and production skills.

- Two educational sessions were hosted for volunteer leaders. Additionally, two volunteer orientation sessions were hosted to educate approved CES volunteers who had completed the CPS screening process. Evaluation results maintained since 2009 indicate participating volunteers consistently feel the orientation helps them understand emergency procedures and mandates for working with youth and other CES clientele.

- Volunteering approximately 2832 hours in teaching and coordinating 148 4-H program camps lead to raising $50,721.00 in volunteer time, the value based on the 2011 Independent Sector estimate for Kentucky.

- Engaged 32 youth in 4-H Bug Night activities learning about insects and how to identify bugs and create collection.

- 4-H members built 26 woodworking projects with the help of five volunteers.

WELCOME!

Nutrition Education Program Assistant recently began working with the Extension Service in Kenton County, Jessica Coker (left) and Angela Baldouf are seeking part-nerships with agencies and individuals who would participate in their free program. Jessica and Angela work with families and individuals who would benefit from easy and fun ideas for feeding the whole family healthy foods while saving time and money. Please call the UK Cooperative Extension Service at 859-586-6015 for more information about this FREE program.

Articulture Program Assistant Nathan Spiller began his employ-ment on September 30th. He has been busy to assist the community with horticulture questions and diagnostics. He is also a NKY Master Gardener Coordinator. Contact him at nathan.spiller@ky.edu.

Kentucky Vacations in your Own Back Yard” was taught to 110 Extension Homemakers and community members in six counties in the Northern Kentucky area.

The impact of those families vacationing in Kentucky may add as much as $33,960 to the average household income.

- The 238 participants attended “Tasty Travels Across America,” learning about regional food cultures, food safety, and nutrition tips. Every person that receives education regarding some aspect of food-borne illness prevention saves their state an estimated $1,000. Potential savings to Kentucky citizens, businesses and government, due to the food safety education included in these programs is $74,000.00.

- The Relative Raising Children Support group directly impacted 34 families through the monthly educational meetings and over 300 households received nutrition and resource information regarding commu-nity assistance. Over $1600.00 in donations of food, school supplies, and other resources contributed to this effort. Family outings were received throughout the year by the participants.

- 34 sculptures were delivered by the Family and Consumer Sciences agent to four different school/community groups impacting over 500 people. Families learned strategies to reduce barriers to communication, facilitate behavior change, acquire new parenting skills for multiple age groups, conflict resolution, and decision making.

- Literacy, Eating, and Activity for Pre-schoolers was taught to over 240 parents and children to encourage reading, making healthy food choices, and increasing activity in children to help reduce the prevalence of childhood obesity.

- Bed Bug Prevention techniques were taught to over 200 people through educational classes at multiple unit housing buildings, the extension office and walk-in to the extension centers.

- 15 diverse women attended a five-week series of classes covering topics including money values and goals, record keeping, insurance (life, health, auto, long-term, disability, homeowners) investing and estate planning.

- A class on estate planning was team taught with the Agriculture Agent and a local attorney. Topics covered included powers of attorney, wills, trusts, living wills. Information was also shared on estate planning—knowing what you have and where it is, how you want your estate handled, personal records, what happens if you do nothing (the Kentucky stat plan), and how to respond to important papers.

- Classes on improving your interview skills and updating your resume were taught to over 60 former FFA members.

- Topics covered included, critiques of their resumes, sample interview questions, ways to utilize their skills in other jobs, outlets for the job search, and networking.

- Three technology classes were taught: two sessions of three-week classes on basic computer skills with hands-on activities. The classes focused on learning Microsoft Word to do simple tasks such as writing a letter, making lists, tables, spell checking, adding color, graphics and changing fonts. Classes on transfer focused on saving the photographs to a USB drive and editing with Picasa software.

- A class on utilizing safety while on line focused on safety using the internet. The class was taught on Facebook, Twitter, smartphones, and bank accounts.

- Plate it up, Kentucky Proud! is a state-wide effort among the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the UK School of Environmental Sciences, and the UK Cooperative Extension Service. FCS Agent and assistant have been collaborating and adjusted four different recipes for distribution as state-wide recipe cards. Six differ-ent “Plate it up” sessions were taught, including 30th.

Homeowners and friends enjoy scrapbooking day while raising scholarship dollars.

Where would we be without our great leaders reaching 212 families. Agent also assisted with Kentucky State Fair commodity break-fast highlighting this program, distributed samples and recipes at the Kentucky County Farm Tour.

Kentucky County has nine clubs and 196 homemaker members. A new fundraiser was planned and carried out by members—an‘ecological everyday’. Monies raised from this and other efforts are used to give $2500 in High School Scholarships. In addition, members raised funds to give $150 in member enrichment scholarships. Kenton County Homemakers hosted the Northern Kentucky area homemaker annual meeting with 182 attendees.

Kentucky County homemakers are active in many civic endeavors. Members adopted the 4th grade at an inner city school, visited at Christmas time and made scarves with the children and raised funds to gift each child with a warm shirt. A second visit was made at the end of the year to host a “hands-on” workshop with the children to make an omelet and fruit salad. Members also made quilts for homeless and seat belt pillows for cancer patients. 48 pillows were made and donated to Wom-