Priority Program Efforts

- A total of 64 people are now involved in addressing significant community issues
- 26 youth made an impact in their community through service projects
- 64 local residents implemented practices that promote sustainable agriculture
- 62 Producers reported an economic impact (i.e., increase in agricultural productivity, increase in higher returns, decrease in expenses) in their agricultural operations
- 108 youth indicated an increase in leadership skills, knowledge or confidence through participation in Extension-related leadership programs
- 402 citizens (youth & adults) acknowledged utilizing the skills learned through Extension programming
- A total of 58 individuals reported making lifestyle changes (diet, exercise, managing stressors, healthy home practices, etc.) for the purpose of improving their health
- A total of 209 youth and adults demonstrated informed and effective decision-making skills
- 22 individuals incorporated new or additional conservation practices.

Gear Tech 21 Lego Robotics Camp . . . .

This summer Lee County 4-H collaborated with 21st Century to offer our first ever Gear Tech 21 Lego Robotics Camp. The camp was held during summer school and offered to middle school aged youth. Participating youth learned to build, program, and modify robots using various sensors and techniques. Youth programmed robots to complete challenges and used creative problem solving and engineering to overcome obstacles during those challenges.

“The Robotics Camp was AWESOME!!
Hope we can do it again next year!!”

8th Grader, Middle School
Agriculture & Natural Resources

Growing Appalachia Garden Project

The Lee County Cooperative Extension Service partnered with the PEP (People Encouraging People) Coalition on the Growing Appalachia Garden Project which included 34 program participants.

Gardening and farming are generations-old traditions in Appalachia that have been lost somewhat in the past 30 years. Families are less active. To kids, food comes from the store or the drive-through—not from the soil. By using local and sustainable techniques, Extension seeks to restore the relationship between the people and the land. To keep both the land and people healthy, the program advocates the use of organic materials.

The Lee County Extension Service conducted the Home Gardening Training sessions for the project. The sessions were—Garden Site Selection, Soil Management, Plant and Seed Selection; Caring for Your Vegetables During the Growing Season; Good Ag Practices Training; Disease and Insect Management; Wildlife Control; Extending Growing Season; Poultry Production; Canning and Preserving of Fruits and Vegetables; and Sharing Session Luncheon for Program Participants. (Training sessions were open to the public as well.)

“The Drip Irrigation increased my yields!!”

It enables you to water and fertilize as needed!!

Growing Appalachia Project Participant

Agriculture and Natural Resources Programs and Events . . . .

- Farm to School.
- Kentucky Ag Development Fund (Phase 1) – Over $1,000,000 has been utilized and infrastructure developed in Lee County in the last 10 years with the guidance of the Extension Service.
- Livestock Risk Management Workshop.
- GAP (Good Ag Practices) Training – 48 trained.
- Over 300 hours of SNAP Ed hours of education was conducted through the Extension Service.
- Climate Change Topics.
- Gardening Demonstrations (4) – Focused on extending the gardening season and raised bed garden construction and utilization.
- Entrepreneur Life Skills Project.
- Leadership Development Skills.

Master Stocker Sessions – Enterprise Budgeting & Cost of Production; Health Management; Marketing Strategies for Stocker & Backgrounding Operations; Marketing; Nutrition; Environmental Compliance & Beef Management Practices; Forage Management; Facilities & Handling for Stocker Cattle. Twenty-five beef cattle producers increased their knowledge of backgrounding beef cattle resulting in an increased profit margin for their beef cattle operation.

Master Marketer Sessions – Feeder Cattle Quality, Price Discovery, and Sale Day Considerations; Using Futures and Options to Manage Price Risk for Feeder Cattle; Advanced Futures and Options Strategies; Decision Making for Stocker Operations. Fifteen beef cattle producers gained knowledge and skills resulting in greater returns for their beef enterprise.
Family & Consumer Sciences

Food Preservation Workshops . . .

Lee County is ranked within the top three most impoverished counties in the state of Kentucky. The Lee County Cooperative Extension Service strives to reach the families most in need and provide programs that will educate county residents on ways to extend their resources. As part of that initiative, extension offers food preservation programs throughout the year, teaching ways to preserve garden produce, create healthy meals, and keep summer fruits and vegetables available into the winter months.

In 2014, the programs reached more than 34 families, with more than 95% of participants reporting that they successfully canned fresh foods from their gardens as a result of program participation.

Homemakers Volunteered to Help With 4-H Sewing Camp . . .

Three Lee County Homemakers volunteered for the 4-H Sewing Camp. Youth completed three beginner sewing projects, a tissue holder, travel case, and drawstring backpack! Participants learned several hand and machine sewing techniques to complete these projects!! These ladies volunteered their time to help make this camp possible!!

“Learning to sew was GREAT!! “ 4-H’er

Super Star Chef Camp . . . .

This summer 13 students participated in a Super Star Chef Camp presented by Lee County 4-H during summer school. Youth learned about nutrition and developed kitchen skills such as food safety, how to properly use a kitchen knife, and measuring while sautéing vegetables, making homemade strawberry preserves, and homemade ice cream!

Truth and Consequences – The Choice is Yours...

This October, Lee County 4-H collaborated with Lee County Schools to organize the first ever Truth and Consequences event at Lee County High School. Truth and Consequences: The Choice is Yours, is an Extension Service program designed to expose youth to the truth about drug and alcohol abuse and help them to understand the consequences associated with various scenarios. This year the program was offered to 11th and 12th grade students at Lee County High School on November 3rd. Community partners from various agencies within the community were invited to participate in the event to share their expertise and talk one on one with youth about specific consequences of drug and alcohol abuse.
5th Grade Economics – Money Wise Piggy Bank Contest

This year 31 Southside Elementary students participated in the 4-H Economics program. During the fall semester students participated in the MITT: Money Wise Piggy Bank Contest where they learned about the importance of good money saving strategies while designing and creating their own piggy banks using recycled containers and duct tape. During the spring semester, students completed a six session course in Consumer Savvy, a 4-H economics curriculum focused on teaching youth about how the economy works and how to good decisions as a consumer in our economy! Students exhibited a greater understanding of many financial concepts and were able to apply concepts learned to real life situations.

4-H Clubs . . . .

This year several new 4-H Club opportunities were formed. School clubs at both Lee County Middle School and Southside Elementary gave students the opportunity to join a traditional 4-H club in their school setting while Lighthouse Clubs offered students a chance to participate in 4-H afterschool. Both of these club opportunities focused on leadership development as well as life skills through a variety of activities centered on teamwork, public speaking, cooking, and creative problem-solving.

4-H Raised Bed Garden Project . . .

According to the USDA Food Atlas, 48% of the population in Lee County are low income and live more than 1 mile from a grocery store. Increasing access to affordable, high quality, nutrient rich foods has become a focus of the Lee County Extension office. As part of this effort the Lee County 4-H and Agriculture Agents have collaborated to develop the 4-H Raised Bed Project. Fourth and fifth grade students at each elementary school participated in the raised bed project by helping to plant and harvest tomatoes to be used in their cafeteria from a raised bed garden at their school. The students participated in a series of lessons on soil health and soil testing. A fresh salsa making demonstration provided the students with fresh made salsa and chips for a snack. This year a total of 493 students participated in the project.

Piggy Bank Purse made from plastic container!!

4-H’ers thoroughly enjoyed harvesting the tomatoes!!

The Lee County Cooperative Extension Service
Extending Knowledge, Changing Lives

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