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 56 people are now involved in addressing significant community issues
- 28 youth made an impact in their community through service projects
- 118 local residents implemented practices that promote sustainable agriculture
- 17 Producers reported an economic impact (i.e., increase in agricultural productivity, increase in higher returns, decrease in expenses) in their agricultural operations
- 155 youth indicated an increase in leadership skills, knowledge or confidence through participation in Extension-related leadership programs
- 179 citizens (youth & adults) acknowledged utilizing the skills learned through Extension programming
- A total of 30 individuals reported making lifestyle changes (diet, exercise, managing stressors, healthy home practices, etc.) for the purpose of improving their health
- A total of 179 youth and adults demonstrated informed and effective decision-making skills
- 42 individuals incorporated new or additional conservation practices.

Lyon County:

The Lyon County Cooperative Extension Service provides research-based education and service to youth and adults of Lyon County. Information and specialist support is based from the two land grant institutions, the University of Kentucky and Kentucky State University.

Facility updates this past year have included new laminate flooring in offices and the meeting room and new tables and chairs for the meeting room.

Local program oversight is provided by the County Extension Council which represents the educational program areas. The District Board works with the local budget and funding. County Administrative Support Staff are Melissa Minard and Olivia Jones. County agents are Susan Fox, Agriculture and Natural Resources; Wanda Paris, 4-H Youth Development; and Angie York, Family and Consumer Science.
Family & Consumer Sciences

The Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) program in Lyon County proved to be busy and rewarding for all involved during the 2013-2014 program year. With emphasis on working with the Homemaker program and working with families and children, the classes and information offered in the FCS department are extremely diverse. The Homemakers again wowed our preschoolers with a great Pretend Store, showed their extreme creativity during Cultural Arts, and broadened the horizons of our youth by sponsoring the 4-H Performing Arts Troup and the UK SOOP Opera group to come to Lyon County. It was not all work for the Homemakers as they also found time for food, fellowship, and fun. Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent, Angie York, furthered the FCS mission by offering a Lyon County Children’s Choir, working with the Rainbow After School program, promoting the importance of exercise with the Walking on Wednesdays program and teaching the importance of sewing and quilting as a hobby or for income. These successful programs are just a few of what the FCS department has offered over the past year.

To spotlight the Homemakers, we could not do so properly without discussing the extremely successful Pretend Store. This project brings all four Homemaker clubs and the Members-At-Large together to purchase gifts for preschoolers and their families. The child is allowed to pick a gift for their mom and dad as well as for brothers and sisters. The gifts are then wrapped by the Homemaker elves and sent home with the children to share with their families on Christmas.

While the Homemakers are not busy helping others in our community, you might find them crafting and making some of the most beautiful handmade items in Lyon County. Each year Homemaker members are invited to enter their crafts in the Cultural Arts contest. Blue ribbon winners in the area are then sent to state competition. This year we had 7 state blue ribbon winners. What an exciting achievement for the Homemakers of Lyon County.

In FCS programming, a joyful noise could be heard throughout the area as the Lyon County Children’s Choir rehearsed and performed for the community. Again, in a community where the Arts are not always available, it was amazing to see this group of young students learn and grow in music. The Rainbow After School Program was also a huge success. A monthly visit to the program had students learning about foods, nutrition, and exercise.

Walking on Wednesdays proved to be a successful program where community members met each Wednesday morning for ten weeks to walk and learn about nutrition and health issues.

Important to this area is the love of sewing and quilting. While many might think this is a dying art, it is alive and well in Lyon County. Classes offered throughout the year gave opportunities to learn how to piece quilt tops as well as machine quilt the finished product. Programs were offered to adults and youth teaching sewing basics by creating quick and easy projects.

We would be remiss not to discuss the importance of good nutrition and accessing nutritious food in our area. This year canning classes were offered to help the community better understand how to preserve their gardens and purchases from the local Farmer’s Market. Partakers learned how to can jellies and jams, green beans, salsa, and even fish.

Looking back on this year brings many joyful memories. Seeing people in the Lyon County area learn something new and use that information to better themselves and their families brings great pleasure. The FCS program looks forward to serving Lyon County in the new year.

Pictured from left to right-Sue Tosh, Bonnie Tosh, Angie York, and Sharon Gates
4-H Youth Development

Five hundred twenty five adult and teen volunteers supported almost 400 youth with time, talent and/or dollars in 4-H programs during the past year. Grants and donations of $6,207, along with funds raised through poinsettia sales, helped sponsor 4-H programming efforts.

Lyon County 4-H offers programming in seven core curriculum areas: Leadership, Health, Communications, Family & Consumer Sciences, Agriculture, Natural Resources, and S.E.T (Science, Engineering and Technology), as well as many specialty projects.

Nine after-school and specialty clubs provided special interest projects: Teen Leadership Council, Craft Club, Outdoors Club, Cooking Club, Shooting Sports Club, Livestock Club, Horse Club and Lego Club, FAN (Fitness and Nutrition). Five volunteers are certified by the state 4-H program for Horse, Livestock and Shooting Sports clubs.

Bullying education and health information were presented to limited resource audience through newsletters distributed monthly by the 4-H Agent through other agencies such as the Housing Authority, Social Services, Sr. Citizens, FRYSC and the school.


Three teens taught workshops at the conference. Lyon County teens presented tobacco education to 1,000 elementary students in Lyon and Livingston Counties, and a bullying education program was presented to 4th graders in Lyon and Marshall Counties.

Day camps focusing on electricity and the environment provided enrichment programs for 4th and 5th grades respectively. The 4-H Council provided 4-H National Youth Science Day kits for every 4th and 5th grader.

Special programs included: a summer day camp, trips to the KY State Fair, Country Ham Project, Area Teen Retreat, Issues Conference, Southern Regional Teen Leadership Conference, Vet Science Project, Kentucky Summit, Communications Day, Reality Store, HOT Conference, TATU program, Trash Sculpture, Make A Difference Day Beef Stew Drive, Spring Clean-up, Mother’s Day Flower Pots, Sewing & Needlework Projects, Electric Lamp Class, Horse Judging, Horse Camp, State 4-H Horse Show, and State Shooting Sports Camp.

Leadership is a major focus for Lyon County 4-H teens. One teen was elected to serve as Kentucky 4-H President, one serves as a District 7 delegate on the State Teen Council, and two serve as officers on Area 4-H Teen Leadership Council. One teen served on the Southern Regional Teen Leadership Conference Planning Committee, and three teens taught workshops at the conference. Lyon County teens presented tobacco education to 1,000 elementary students in Lyon and Livingston Counties, and a bullying education program was presented to 4th graders in Lyon and Marshall Counties.

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Agriculture & Natural Resources

Agriculture: Programs and classes offered for farmers over the winter included ‘Livestock CSI with Breathitt Lab’; Winter Grazing: Grazing for Cash; “Can You Afford $300 Rent with $4 Corn”; KSP Outreach meeting; a Dark Tobacco Update; and Tobacco GAP Certification, Private Applicators training and Beef Quality Assurance certification.

Lyon County ANR collaborates with the Lyon County Farm Bureau Board, and works with the Ag Development Council, the Caldwell-Lyon Cattlemen’s Association and the West Kentucky Beekeepers, the Western Rivers Livestock Show and the State Fair Land Judging Contest.

Commercial Horticulture: The Lyon County Farmers’ Market is supported organizationally. A new Facebook page is used for market updates and special notices including the Summer Celebration and Customer Appreciation Day and a Giant Tomato Contest. Eleven producers attended the spring market meeting and GAP training.

ANR agents in Calloway, Carlisle, Lyon and McCracken Counties collaborated to offer the “West Kentucky High Tunnel Conference: Maximizing High Tunnel Vegetable Profitability” for 50 high tunnel producers.

Home Horticulture: A Master Gardener Class was held this year with 15 participants attending 14 sessions and graduating in May. Thirty-four Master Gardeners toured the Missouri Botanical Garden.

The Master Gardener Christmas Wreath Event continued to grow with 55 people from four counties. At the Master Gardeners’ 4-H Mother’s Day Flower Pots 27 youth designed flower pots as a gift. The Master Gardener Demonstration Garden has been a popular tool for learning. The Master Gardeners have contributing 300 hours of volunteer time to the garden in 2014.

Leaf Casting Classes had 12 participants. A Small Fruit Production class was attended by 22 people. And a hands-on fruit tree and grape pruning class had 5 participants.

The office provided 279 soil tests to Lyon County residents. In addition, there were 58 plant disease and 18 insect identification s, 41 agriculture assistances, 22 commercial horticulture and 34 home horticulture assistances, 8 home visits and 20 farm visits. Farmers and homeowners are provided with information, pathology lab and specialist assistance.

The Lyon County Cooperative Extension Service
Extending Knowledge, Changing Lives

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