

EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE

Changing Lives

IN MADISON COUNTY

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



Connie and Bill, "grandparents as parents" spend time with their grandson, Bobby during one of the monthly meetings of Small Friends.

Grandparents as Parents

Grandparents become parents again for a variety of reasons. Military deployments, teen pregnancy, death of a parent, economic situations, abuse, neglect, substance abuse, and imprisonment of the parent(s) are all circumstances that have led to an increase in "second parenthood".

Whatever the situation, grandparents as parents face unique challenges. They may not have the resources, supplies, or stamina needed to care for a child. Times have changed. Children, also, face different issues than children of a generation ago. Technology, cultural changes, and social media make parenting at any age a challenge.

Grandparents as Parents (GAP) is an amazing group of individuals who meet monthly at the Extension Center for support and encouragement. Besides having an "expert" share resources each month, the Grandparents also speak up with suggestions, additional resource ideas or words of encouragement.

Priority Program Efforts

87 Youth made an impact in their community through service projects

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

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

7,729 citizens (youth & adults) acknowledged utilizing the skills learned through Extension programming

A total of 912 individuals reported making lifestyle changes (diet, exercise, managing stressors, healthy home practices, etc.) for the purpose of improving their health

A total of 1,989 youth and adults demonstrated informed and effective decision-making skills

75 local residents implemented practices that promote sustainable agriculture

“4-H Goes Wild”

The Madison County 4-H Youth Development Agents recently won a National award for Excellence in Natural Resources Award for the annual environmental “4-H Goes Wild” field day. The “4-H Goes Wild” field day is held in April for local fourth graders to learn about nature and the environment through hands-on activities. The students rotate through 12 classes dealing with wildlife, water quality, entomology, and adaptations just to name a few. This year 4-H impacted around 600 students.



Students getting up close to KY wildlife by touching furs. Student dissecting an owl pellet and charting the bones to identify its diet.

Master Gardener Club

This year a Master Gardener Club was formed. The goal of this club was to further engage and educate Master Gardener volunteers. The club meets once a month. The Madison County Horticulture Agent keeps plant and insect samples clients bring in so that she can share these samples with the group. This exercise has strengthened the volunteer’s diagnostic skills. The group has been on two field trips to Lexington and Lincoln County.



Master Gardeners on a field trip to a roof top in Lexington.

Cheryl Sergent: “Being new to Madison County, the Master Gardener program gave me the opportunity to learn about the unfamiliar area, the plants that thrive here, and to make new friends through volunteering.”

Stars Program

The Stars program at Clark-Moores Middle School offers students an opportunity to learn about food through a six week program that teaches seed germination, harvesting, nutrition and three types of food preservation. The nutrition assistants partner with 4-H to provide these lessons to 20 students in five sessions throughout the school year.



Clark-Moores Middle School Stars Program students learn about growing and preserving food as they make jelly in small groups.

Stockpiled Fescue Demonstration

A local beef cattle producer participated in our fescue stockpiling demonstration to increase grazing days and reduce purchased feed costs on the farm. Nitrogen fertilizer was added to the pasture in early August and cattle were not allowed to graze until late November. Using temporary fencing and rotational grazing practices, 14 heifers with an average weight of 1040 lbs grazed 9.6 acres for 46 days. During this time they gained about 1 lb/hd/d and did not require any additional feed supplementation saving the producer time, machinery wear and money.



John Thomas installs temporary electric fence for rotational grazing of a stockpiled tall fescue pasture.



Students learned to safely chop vegetables at the Summer Super Star Chef Day Camp.

Super Star Chef Day Camp

The Super Star Chef series provides a fun and educational environment for youth to gain knowledge and learn skills which will lead to success in the kitchen. This summer 20 students from the Richmond Teen Center summer program took part in this three day hands-on cooking school covering safety in the kitchen; reading a recipe; cooking techniques; nutrition facts; and dietary and physical activity information to assist them in making good choices for a healthy lifestyle.



Seeds ready to be shared at the Seed Swap.

Seed Swap

The Madison County Horticulture Agent partnered with the Eat Local, Grow Local group to offer a seed swap in early spring. Participants were encouraged to bring seeds to swap, but it was not required. The night of the program, a webinar video produced by Seed Saver's Exchange was shown. The video focused on how to save seeds from tomato, bean, and lettuce plants. After the video, the swap began. Another swap has already been scheduled for next spring.

Beginning Beef Program

This spring, 31 local beef cattle producers participated in a program designed to educate them about the basics of beef cattle management. Topics included health, nutrition, reproduction, marketing, financing, and end product. Our group toured the UK meats lab in Lexington and visited a local veterinary clinic that included several hands-on management demonstrations.



Beginning Beef participants learn how to determine the approximate age of cattle.



Middle School students from Clark Moore and Caudill after their presentation.

4-H Helps "Ditch the Drama"

Madison County 4-H partnered with two local middle schools and three local elementary schools to present a program called "Ditch the Drama". During these programs, the middle school students planned the "Ditch the Drama" event, adopted a fifth grade pal from one of the elementary schools and learned about teambuilding, self-esteem, bullying and friendships.

The culminating event, a mother/daughter workshop was held in May. The middle school students led three workshops—Toxic Friends, Don't Bully Me, and Look in the Mirror for the fifth graders. During workshop time the mothers had the opportunity to discuss, with a child therapist, the transitions facing their daughters as they prepare to enter middle school.



Many schools in the county host 4-H Communications Contests each fall and winter.

4-H Communication Skills

Good presentation skills help youth gain the confidence they need to prepare for today's workforce or college entry. The Madison County Cooperative Extension Service 4-H Agent created, organized, and

conducted a public speaking workshop and contest for 612 4th and 5th graders that focused on improving communication skills.

All of the students participating in this program improved their communication skills. 100% were able to successful completed the classroom presentation, 98% had improved writing and organization skills, and 90% said that they are no longer afraid of public speaking because of their 4-H project.



Over 800 bears will be delivered to local hospitals during the holiday season.

Small Gifts

Education, leadership and service are the three main premises of Extension Homemakers. They are a great resource for Madison County as teachers, community leaders and organizers of many service projects.

For at least the past 15 years Extension Homemakers have contributed supplies, sewed, stuffed and delivered hundreds of small animals to Baptist Health Richmond and St. Joseph Berea. The animals seem to be a small thing, but they are a calming gift for children in distress and they are made with love.

What's Your Beef?

Madison County Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Horticulture Programs

partnered to host a consumer education meeting about grain finished and grass finished beef. Participants learned the differences between each production system. Extension Homemakers and Master Gardeners prepared hamburger and strip steak samples for the group to compare. Branded beef product types and beef marketing terms were also discussed.



The modern supermarket meat case offers many purchasing options.



The award recipients at the 2015 Farm City Banquet.

Farm City Banquet

The Madison County Cooperative Extension Service hosted the 2015 Farm City Banquet in collaboration with several civic organizations. During this event, agriculture in the county was highlighted. Farmers and institutions that impacted the county in the previous year were recognized for their service. This year's speaker was Warren Beeler from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. He discussed hemp in Kentucky.

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