

EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE *Changing Lives*



IN SCOTT COUNTY

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



Scott County Judge Executive, George Lusby, presents Connie Minch with a proclamation honoring her service to Scott County.

After 45 years of service to Kentucky Cooperative Extension, Ms. Connie Minch, Agent for Family and Consumer Science retired from the Scott County Cooperative Extension Service. Connie began her service in Scott County in 1978. Scott County Homemakers is a large part of Connie's career, but there has been so much more!

She has played a large leadership role for many programs sponsored by the University of Kentucky to benefit Scott County citizens, including; Get Moving Kentucky, 2nd Sunday, Extension sponsored blood drives, county fair exhibit hall, 4-H sewing and knitting, Extension District Board and Extension Council liaison and the Master in Clothing Volunteers Program. Over the past thirty-seven years, Ms. Minch, has continued to endeavor to strengthen, develop, coordinate and extend adult education in cooperation with the Cooperative Extension Service of the United States Department of Agriculture and the University of Kentucky.

*In Scott County we're growing ideas that make a difference in your life, your family, and your community.
The Scott County Cooperative Extension Office is your connection to the University of Kentucky and the world.*

Priority Program Efforts

- A total of 667 individuals reported changes in knowledge, opinions, skills or aspirations related to economic or enterprise development
- 706 Number of volunteer hours generated by CED programs (i.e., number of hours completed by volunteers) *385 Youth Volunteers are also making an impact through community service projects
- 1,053 Producers adopted resource management technologies (IRM, IPM, soil testing, soil fertility management) as a result of Extension programs
- 1,041 Individuals reported an increased awareness of sustainable agriculture practices
- 247 Youth indicated an increase in leadership skills, knowledge or confidence through participation in Extension-related leadership programs
- A total of 1,547 citizens (youth and adults) acknowledged utilizing the skills learned through Cooperative Extension programming
- 12,534 Individuals experienced an increase in knowledge, opinions, skills or aspirations regarding lifestyle changes (diet, exercise, etc.) that improve personal health

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Leadership Development

The Scott County Extension Homemaker program is the “crown jewel” of our Family and Consumer Sciences educational activities. For 2014–2015 we have 600 members in 24 clubs. They provide leadership for county, area and state Extension Homemaker programs in the areas of nutrition, health, resource management, leadership development and environmental quality. They are a community based program that focuses on the family.

Healthy Lifestyle Choices

Promoting healthy lifestyle choices continues to be a priority for Scott County Cooperative Extension Service Family and Consumer Sciences programs. An activity addressing the benefits of practicing good eating habits and getting adequate exercise was Super Star Chef.

Super Star Chef was a three day summer nutrition camp held at the Ed Davis Learning Center in north Georgetown. The target audience was limited resource youth



who lived within walking distance of the Center. In addition to nutrition and an introduction to food safety facts, participants made freezer jam, fruit kabobs, and whole grain muffins. There were 25 participants between the ages of 8—12 years.

Super Star Chef participants are pictured making whole wheat muffins.

Other healthy lifestyle learning activities included another 18 weeks of Get Moving Kentucky and Cooperative Extension’s most successful physical activity program, the eighth annual Second Sunday event which this year attracted 800 people.

Georgetown College Lady Tigers help kids learn the importance of physical activity at the 2015 Second Sunday event.



AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Central Kentucky Farm Start - Preparing Beginner Farmers to build the foundation of a Successful Agribusiness.

Statistics now show that the majority of the Kentucky population is three generations removed from the farm and the experience of raising agricultural products. In Scott County an ever- increasing percentage of these individuals that have little to no agricultural experience are gaining interest in starting a farming operation. Many of these individuals purchase land without researching water sources, soil quality, or the profit potential of their farming endeavors.



Participants of the Farm Start Program learn to identify soil profiles by Soil Science Specialists, Edwin Ritchey and Josh McGrath.

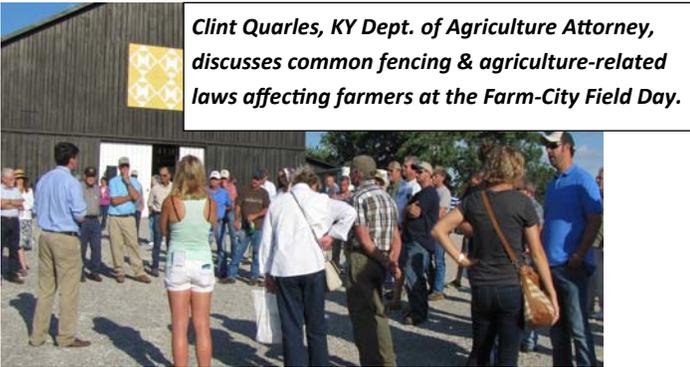
Without conducting enough research on agricultural crops and what is necessary for them to thrive and be successful, an operation can end quickly due to lost income, potential legal situations, and even the loss of purchased or rented property. The Scott County Agricultural Advisory Council recommended a program be held for farmers that have no experience or knowledge and educate them on the foundations of building a successful operation. In response, the Scott County Ag & Natural Resources Extension Agent, Michelle Simon, coordinated with surrounding counties to create the Central Kentucky Farm Start program. There were nine educational sessions involving tours of research farms, and presentations by University of Kentucky specialists, representatives from Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, and Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

Twenty-seven beginner farmers graduated from the Central Kentucky Farm Start program, learning agribusiness skills such as farm budgets and record-keeping, legal regulations and laws, financial lenders and grant resources, farm safety, soil quality, marketing, and livestock, crop, and forage production. Central Kentucky Farm Start graduates shared their farm business plans with the class and also submitted Ag Water Plans for their farms. One participant had this to say, “Thanks for all your work on this class. It was wonderful, and I’m already taking steps to put what I learned into practice....my budget is much more accurate!”

Farm-City Field Day; Reduction of Farm Liability Potential

Scott County is the fastest growing county in the state of Kentucky with a population experiencing surges in the categories of youth under 18 and adults over sixty. This statistic shows two things: urban dwelling youth need hands-on demonstrations to learn about agriculture, and the average age of farmers (which is currently sixty-five) will likely stay constant increasing the need for farm safety demonstrations.

The annual Farm- City Field Day is an event to help bridge the gap between the agricultural and urban sectors of Scott County. Held at the Glass Family Farm with an attendance of 320 community members, participants were given an overview of the family farming operation including an insight to the daily challenges and successes that full-time farmers face.



Clint Quarles, KY Dept. of Agriculture Attorney, discusses common fencing & agriculture-related laws affecting farmers at the Farm-City Field Day.

There were demonstrations on safely handling cattle to reduce stress on animals and improve safety for handlers. There were also presentations on building reliable fencing and pertinent ag and fence laws, as well as potential liabilities. As a result of this annual field day, the Scott County urban community is well educated about their local farms and food sources and farmers have incorporated safety equipment such as paddles, crowding tubs, and squeeze chutes to handle cattle.

HORTICULTURE

Community Garden

The Scott County Cooperative Extension Horticulture Program, in coordination with the Bluegrass Antique Farm Machinery Association hosted Plow Day at the Georgetown/Scott County Community Garden, in November this year.

Along with vintage and antique tractors and plows, the association invited area draft horse owners to bring their teams to the event and demonstrate plowing with horses. People



Todd Finch, member of the Bluegrass Antique Machinery Association, plows and harrows with a vintage Case tractor. Photo by Rick Conley

from around central and eastern Kentucky showed up as well as horse and antique machinery enthusiasts from Ohio. The day was filled with demonstrations by vintage tractor and plows and horse teams with plows. Anyone who was game was given a “hand” at taking over the teams of draft horses to plow a row or two.

Community Gardener Jeff Wilson tries his hand at plowing with draft horse team, Dick and Dan, as Mike Downs, the team's owner, guides him. Photo by Rick Conley



The event was a win-win situation for all involved as the community garden was able to get the plots plowed and tilled, the association had a chance to showcase their extraordinary machines and the public got to view firsthand the work involved in raising food in a bygone era. There are plans to make this an annual event!

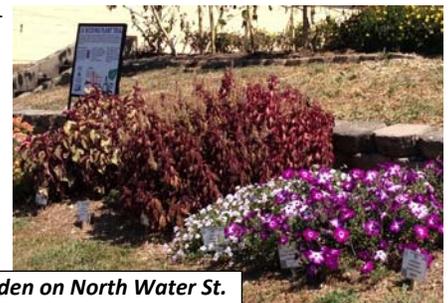
The Georgetown/Scott Co. Community Garden is a joint effort of Scott County Cooperative Extension, City of Georgetown, and Scott County Fiscal Court. Garden plots in 800 square feet and 1600 square feet sizes are available yearly from April through October for a small fee. The program is on a “first come, first serve” basis.

Bedding Plant Trial Gardens

The Scott Co. Cooperative Extension Horticulture Program UK bedding plant trial gardens are a part of a statewide effort to determine the best performing species and cultivars of annual/perennial garden flowers in Kentucky.

The public is encouraged to visit and take note of new varieties being grown and to observe and study the different growth habits, tolerances and visual characteristics of the many varieties that have been put on display. A QR code was added to each plant to aid citizens in reporting important research data. The selections change from year to year and include at least 20 varieties of summer annuals. This year's public trials were located on North Water Street, across from the Scott Co. Arts and Cultural Center, at St. Francis Church on Frankfort Pike, and in pots at the entrance of the extension office.

Master Gardener volunteers responsible for planting and caring for plots were David LaBelle, Renee Corrigan, Milton Adams, and Molly Fulton.



The UK Plant Trial Garden on North Water St.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Family Learning Extravaganza

Kentucky has seen an increase in the percentage of people that fall below the poverty level. In an effort to educate young people and adults on budgeting, and promote higher education that would lead to a better career, the Scott County 4-H Program partnered with a local Family Resource Coordinator and the United Way to hold Family Learning Extravanzas.

These events featured free food, volunteers at booths that shared information on educational opportunities (in English and Spanish) and gave budgeting tips, as well as handed out incentive items. The events were held on two different dates during the summer, and took place at two areas in Scott County where lower income housing is located. Two hundred people (youth and adults) were reached through these events, with the majority of the participants being minorities. In order to see if the events helped the participants go toward a better career path, or make better budgeting decisions, Scott County 4-H is holding Reality Stores with youth at the schools located in the same areas, and will have students fill out post-event



4-H Volunteers hand out promotional material at a Family Learning Extravaganza event held over the summer.

Outdoor Learning Classroom

Many middle school students in Scott County do not have the opportunity to learn about nature in an outdoor setting. Scott County 4-H Agents and the Scott County Agricultural Agent collaborated with Scott County Middle School and Royal Spring Middle School to create outdoor educational classrooms on their respective school properties. 60 students at each school worked with the agents to plan, design, secure donations, and start creating the outdoor educational classrooms. One student said, "we want an outdoor, peaceful learning environment". The outdoor educational classrooms, when finished, will contain a variety of plants, rain gardens, pallet gardens, birdhouses, sitting areas, and miniature ponds.

Once the classrooms are finished, all students at the two middle schools (approximately 750 at each school) will be able to enjoy and learn from the outdoor educational classrooms. Even though this project is just beginning, the excitement from the students is contagious, and the response from other teachers is encouraging. One teacher sent us a message that said, "the area outside my window looks awesome"!



Students at Scott Co. Middle School are planting mums for the Outdoor Educational Classroom program.

4-H Summer Camp

The 4-H Camping Program is more than just outdoor fun and activities. It is a series of learning experiences designed to bring about positive youth development. 4-H Camp is a leadership project for youth who decide to make the week long commitment to making some of the most formative memories in their lives. County agents plan the camp program from January until camp begins, making sure that the games, skits, songs, nature education, hikes, swimming events, arts and crafts projects and activities will give camp participants a week of fun and learning they will always remember.

Our summer camping program went through a major change this year. We camped weeks later than we usually do and went further away, to the JM Feltner Camp in London, KY. Our numbers were as high as ever though, taking 52 girls and 42 boys to camp.

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**The Scott County
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