

# EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE *Changing Lives*

## IN UNION COUNTY

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

### AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES



Brian Shouse, Darrell Cowan, Brian Clements, Jim Bickett, Bryan Bickett, Jeremy White and Buck White receive awards for high yield crops.

### **Like the University of Kentucky Wildcats, Union County farmers are the ones to beat!**

Union County's agricultures income is about 90% from cash grain sales, with beef cattle sales about 10%. Maximizing grain crop yields, while holding input cost to non-biased, researched based levels, is critical to realizing any profitability under current low price scenario. Union County Extension held educational meetings on land rents, crop budgets, and grain marketing to assist farmers in making important farm management decisions. These meetings were attended by over 250 producers.

Union County producers realizing the importance of crop yields, while exercising their hard work and competitive nature, are aggressive competitors in the crop yield contest. For the 2014 crop year, Union County producers were State champions in yellow corn, white corn, soybeans and wheat (2015).

## Priority Program Efforts

- Union County remains number **1** corn and coal producing county in Kentucky!
- Seven cattle operations marketed **575** cattle in the Green River CPH-45 graded cattle sales.
- Union County Cattlemen's Bull Sale sold **36** bulls for an average of **\$3,760**, with the most of the bulls purchased by local farmers.
- Union County had **4** beginning farmers to participate in the Farm-Start program.
- **4** teams of **5** and **7** individuals lost a total of **200** pounds in Union County Biggest Loser Contest.
- **115** people increased knowledge of healthy food consumption.
- **185** people increased knowledge of lifestyle changes to improve personal health.
- **350** people increased knowledge of UK Cooperative Extension Service.

In the yellow corn contest, Jim Bickett was State champion with 310.91 bushel per acre. S & S Farms was second in the State with 308.68 bushel per acre.

In white corn, Waller Brothers was State champion with 306.10 bushel per acre, S & S Farms was second in the State with 285.24 bushel per acre and Bill Gough was third in the State with 256.32 bushel per acre.

In soybeans, White Farms were State champion with 98.26 bushel per acre and coming in second in the State was Clements Brothers with 95.16 bushel per acre.

In wheat, Keith Hendrickson is State champion with 134.27 bushel per acre. Yield contest are great educational tools, demonstrating what yields are possible. Like the Kentucky Wildcat basketball, Union County farmers are the ones all others are trying to beat!

### All State champions had record yields.

Extension hosted the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Union County Crop Yield Tour. Over the years, county yield tour estimates have been close to the NASS final figures.

As of stakeholder request, the Extension hosted a Farm-Vehicle Regulation meeting. Exit interviews indicated that farmers obtained valuable information at this well attended meeting.

Extension and Morganfield Lion's Club hosted the annual George Kurtz Farm-City Breakfast. It's name is In honor of the former University of Kentucky County Agent and former Lion's Club member, George Kurtz.

### FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

The risk factors of poor nutrition and physical inactivity begin early in life. A natural link exists between nutrition, physical activity, and reading. Reading books that focus on preparing and eating healthy foods and being physically active may motivate children to adopt positive food and physical activity behaviors that last a lifetime.

The Union County Cooperative Extension Service, Family and Consumer Sciences Agent used the LEAP curriculum to inspire 3 and 4 year olds at the Union County Head Start Programs in 3 elementary schools, as well as the Union

County Library's story hour in 3 locations. The head start program was held monthly beginning in October to introduce nutritious foods, concepts of staying healthy, and being physically active.



*Participant of read and feed program displays his artwork he made this summer.*

Approximately 160 preschoolers participated. Parent newsletters were sent home after every lesson to help inspire the parents as well. Pre-school teachers surveyed reported the children were excited about the program and stated "It is nice to have the support of the community to reinforce what they talk about daily." They also stated that the children were more likely to try different vegetables.

COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION  
SERVICE

**UK**  
UNIVERSITY OF  
**KENTUCKY**  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment

**The Union County  
Cooperative  
Extension Service**

*Extending Knowledge,  
Changing Lives*

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