



EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE

Changing Lives

IN WASHINGTON 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 Agent Retires After 46 Years of Service



After 46 years in the Cooperative Extension Service, Rick Greenwell retired from the Agriculture Agent position in Washington County.

During his years of service, Rick was instrumental in starting the Washington County Agriculture Scholarship through University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment (UK CAFE). He also started the Leadership Washington County Program due to his passion for

leadership development. Rick assisted local farmers through the County Agriculture Investment Program (CAIP) and Next Generation Farmer Program through the Kentucky Agriculture Development Funds. He always wanted to keep young farmers active in Cooperative Extension and was also involved with dairy and beef farmers. He was very active with the Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA) and the Washington County Cattlemen Association. Rick was always one of the first to implement new ideas coming from UK CAFE, including the float bed system for tobacco farmers and baling tobacco. He also led Washington County to be one of the first counties to start the Master Cattlemen Program. In May 2016, he received the Washington County FFA Honorary Chapter Degree. Rick was honored by many farmers, family, community members, officials, and Cooperative Extension coworkers and administration who attended his retirement party to celebrate his work.

Priority Program Efforts

- A total of **1,725** people are now involved in addressing significant community issues
- **333** youth made an impact in their community through service projects
- **543** local residents implemented practices that promote sustainable agriculture
- **486** Producers reported an economic impact (i.e., increase in agricultural productivity, increase in higher returns, decrease in expenses) in their agricultural operations
- **276** youth indicated an increase in leadership skills, knowledge or confidence through participation in Extension-related leadership programs
- **2,760** citizens (youth & adults) acknowledged utilizing the skills learned through Extension programming
- A total of **855** individuals reported making lifestyle changes (diet, exercise, managing stressors, healthy home practices, etc.) for the purpose of improving their health
- A total of **1,746** youth and adults demonstrated informed and effective decision-making skills
- **69** individuals incorporated new or additional conservation practices.

Master Extension Leadership

The Leadership Washington County Program is among the longest running leadership programs in Kentucky. With nearly twenty graduating classes over the last two decades, past participants began asking for an updated program for those that have been through the leadership program before. They requested a more advanced educational and leadership experience. The Horticulture, Family and Consumer Science, and Agriculture Agents collaborated to develop a program geared to inform participants about our community and to bring a more in depth educational component on the concepts of leadership.



State Representative Kim King explains to Master Extension Leadership participants how a bill becomes law in Kentucky.

The program consisted of a weekend day retreat with participants doing team building exercises, True Colors Personality Sorter, and learning about cultural awareness and working with diverse audiences taught by CEDIK and 4-H Specialists from UK. Other class sessions included a day trip to Frankfort meeting with Representatives and Senators on the processes of state government, and evening sessions such as local government, health services, and community and economic development.

The program was funded, as other local leadership programs have been, with donations from local businesses. To date, over \$85,000 has been donated to be used for the Washington County Leadership Programs. Evaluations of participants proved the success of this program with participants stating they will miss the meetings and that they had no idea how local government can do so much with what tax funding they receive. Another participant stated "This program allowed me to see inside my

community in a way that I would never have been able to."

During the advertising phase and later Facebook posts the Horticulture Agent was contacted by an Agent from the Iowa Cooperative Extension Service wanting more information about the Master Extension Leadership Program. The Agent stated they had wanted to do something similar for a while and this gave them the jump start they needed. The Master Extension Leadership program not only is being used in Kentucky but now Iowa as well!

Master Gardeners Making a Difference

Each year Master Gardeners are required to log 40 hours of volunteer time in order to maintain certification. This past year the Master Gardeners of the Washington County Master Gardener Association chose to partner with and assist in funding the 4-H Food for Kids Backpack Program. The Program is designed to ensure that at risk/in need children are provided with supplemental food to ensure that they are fed during non-school days. Each Friday through the school year nonperishable items are sent home in the backpacks of hungry school children who otherwise might have no access to food.

During the holiday season Master Gardeners took orders for and then created holiday wreaths using fresh cut greenery from their gardens and landscapes. After crafting and selling nearly 100 fresh wreaths, the Master Gardeners donated \$1,000 to the Food for Kids Backpack Program. This money will allow 20 additional children to receive food each weekend throughout the 2016-2017 school year.



Master Gardeners making wreaths; from front: Abby Cool, Debbie Bell, and Joe Moffitt

4-H member, Blake Arnold (center), received the awards listed below at the Kentucky State Fair



Washington County 4-H Hams at the Kentucky State Fair

The 2016 Kentucky State Fair was a banner year for Washington County 4-H members including those participating in the 4-H Country Ham Contest. Seven out of the nine club members participating received blue ribbons. 4-H member Blake Arnold received Champion Non-Smoked ham in the 12 year old division, Champion Jr. Speech, Reserve Jr. Champion Non-smoked and Overall Reserve Jr. Champion. He also received one of the KY Agriculture Commissioner's Awards. A special thank you goes to club leaders Laura and Craig Arnold.

Farm to City Breakfast

The Washington County Fair Board, with the assistance of the Extension Office, kicked off a new event this past year, the Washington County Farm to City Breakfast. The breakfast was created to showcase Washington County agriculture and to kick off the annual Sorghum Festival. This year, Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture, Ryan Quarles and Warren Beeler, Director of the Governor's Committee on Agriculture Policy were the main speakers. Over 115 community members and business leaders attended the breakfast held at Mordecai's Restaurant.

Walk on Washington

Health conditions associated with leading a lifestyle lacking physical activity and proper nutrition continue to be an issue around the country and in Washington County. The Family and Consumer Sciences Agent partnered with the Washington on Wellness Coalition to design and implement a program called Walk On Washington. Participants logged their steps from July 1 through October 1, 2016. Forty eight participants achieved amazing totals throughout the program. The total number of steps was 30,990,787, which is about 15,495 miles! The Washington on Wellness Coalition provided funding for prizes. Thirteen participants won weekly prizes of gift cards to local businesses and two participants won the \$250 grand prize.

Relationship Smarts

Establishing healthy relationships is essential to well-being. In order to encourage social and emotional development, the Family and Consumer Sciences Agent taught the Relationship Smarts Program series to high school health classes. Lessons included discussions and activities on sense of self, values, maturity, communication, respect, dating violence, healthy versus unhealthy behavior, and principles of smart relationships.

Washington County 4-H Horse Show Arena

The Washington County 4-H Young Riders made the commitment in 2016 to improve their horse show arena at the Willisburg Community Park. Club members fundraised approximately \$6,000 to add sand to solve drainage problems in the arena. The arena is now ready to host quality shows that will bring additional events and people to the park and to the Willisburg community. Club volunteer leadership helped spearhead the project to completion.



4-H Young Riders in the newly improved horse show arena

Super Star Chef

Learning basic cooking skills and preparing fun, healthy foods was the basis of the summer Super Star Chef program sponsored by KY SNAP-ED and Washington County 4-H. Twenty Washington County youth participated in the two day summer camp led by University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment students.



Super Star Chef program participants with their teachers from the UK College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment

Next Generation Farmer

The average age of a Kentucky farmer is around 60 years old and has continued to go up for decades and Washington County is no exception. In an attempt to try to slow this creep upward and to help new farmers get established the Washington County Cooperative Extension Service and the Washington Cattleman Association administered a



Lee Hood with beef cattle purchased through the Next Generation Farmer Cost Share Program

cost share program through the Washington County Agricultural Board and The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board entitled Next Generation Farmer.

Participants in this program spent \$10,000 each and received \$5000 from the monies allotted to Washington County through CAIP funds. The money was used for livestock, infrastructure, fencing, on-farm water, and forage and grain improvement. Eligible participants had to have 3-10 years' experience and attend four educational meetings administered through the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service that covered budgets, conservation programs, and borrowing opportunities. In total 23 participants completed the program.

"This is an investment that's going to support my agriculture investment for the long-term. The structure I built, I hope my kids are able to work cattle in it when they're 30 or 40. I think the key to it is the word 'growth.' We were all able to grow our enterprises or invest in a new enterprise that we probably wouldn't have been able to before."

-Bart Mattingly, local young farmer

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WASHINGTON County

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