EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE
Changing Lives

IN WOODFORD COUNTY

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 32 people are now involved in addressing significant community issues
34 youth made an impact in their community through service projects
62 local residents implemented practices that promote sustainable agriculture
13 Producers reported an economic impact (i.e., increase in agricultural productivity, increase in higher returns, decrease in expenses) in their agricultural operations
292 youth indicated an increase in leadership skills, knowledge or confidence through participation in Extension-related leadership programs
285 citizens (youth & adults) acknowledged utilizing the skills learned through Extension programming
A total of 37 individuals reported making lifestyle changes (diet, exercise, managing stressors, healthy home practices, etc.) for the purpose of improving their health
A total of 298 youth and adults demonstrated informed and effective decision-making skills
23 individuals incorporated new or additional conservation practices.

Woodford County: Making a difference in the lives of our citizens

In Woodford County we’re growing ideas that make a difference in your life, your family, and your community. We have a dedicated staff of trained professionals delivering educational programs in agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer sciences, 4-H youth development, horticulture, and community and economic development. The Woodford County Cooperative Extension Office is your connection to the University of Kentucky and the world.

We continue our mission of bringing research based information from both land grand institutions (University of Kentucky & Kentucky State University) to local individuals and families. As we reflect on the past year, it is apparent that Cooperative Extension continues to make strides in serving a diverse group of clientele. We hope that you will take time to review the programs highlighted in this report and we look forward to seeing you at one of our programs soon!
4-H Youth Development

Investment in Youth Sale
The Woodford County 4-H Livestock Club seeks to teach youth about the importance of agriculture and effective animal husbandry skills. Every year as a culminating event, those members who either showed a market animal at the 4-H Youth Expo or participated at the Kentucky State Fair in the Country Ham Project are eligible to participate in the 4-H/FFA Invest in Youth Sale. This sale allows youth the opportunity to recruit community members and businesses to come support them for all the time, money and energy they put into their project animal or ham. This year over $22,000 was invested into project efforts of the 39 youth who participated.

Country Ham Projects
The most popular project enjoyed by 4-H’ers in Woodford County and one that is still growing in popularity across the state is the Country Ham Project. Participants receive two hams in January and are charged with applying the cure and hanging it in the Woodford County ham barn. The hams are cleaned twice, once in May and once in August, in preparation for the Kentucky State Fair. Participants must also write a three to five minute speech on an assigned topic regarding hams and deliver it to judges at the Kentucky State Fair. Woodford County always represents well and 2015 was no exception as 28 youth travelled to Louisville to deliver their speech with several placing top three or winning their age group in either the speech or overall score category.

Summertime Fun Project Days
Woodford County 4-H seeks to develop skills in its members that can become lifelong hobbies or interests and one way that takes place is in the 4-H Summertime Fun Project Days. Throughout the summer the Woodford County Extension Office hosts project days were youth come and learn how to create or make a variety of projects including terrariums, woodworking items, electric circuits, insect collections or leather crafts. Also featured are cooking camp, sewing camp and robotics camp, where participants spend several days learning how to cook from 4-H project recipes, assemble 4-H project sewing items or learn how to program a Lego robot. In total, 13 project days or camps are offered with more being planned for next summer!

Horticulture

Horticulture Workshops
Each year the Woodford County Extension Service offers a series of workshops and classes as part of the “gardener’s toolbox” program. This years’ program included a tree care series, several beekeeping workshops, and a series of classes on growing, cooking, and preserving vegetables and fruit. Participants were provided with information and supplies to grow their own produce, learned firsthand from area experts how to start and maintain a beehive, and learned how to prune and care for their landscape trees.
Family and Consumer Sciences

Extension Homemaker Backpack Project

The Annual Backpack & School Supply project was organized and coordinated by Extension Homemakers to assist over 300 K-12 students in need. Pencils, paper, backpacks, folders, notebooks and more were distributed to all public schools through the Family Resource Centers in Woodford County. Supplies and monetary donations were provided by local churches, businesses, organizations and individuals, in addition to the Homemakers.

Enabling Gardens

In partnership with the Versailles Daisy Hill Senior Living Community, the Woodford County Extension Service helped to design and implement an enabling garden for the senior residents of Daisy Hill. The purpose of an enabling garden is to make gardening accessible to those with physical, mental, or emotional challenges. The gardens provide fresh produce and flowers for residents and help to increase physical activity.

Extension Booth at the Farmers Market

This past year the Woodford County Extension Service and Master Gardener volunteers organized and ran a bimonthly Extension informational booth at the Saturday Farmers Market in Versailles. Master Gardener volunteers answered customers’ gardening questions, handed out extension publications, provided information on upcoming extension programs and events, provided recipes for fresh produce, and gave away free gardening and cooking supplies. The booth will continue next year so stop by and see us!

Home Canning Workshops

Home food preservation has made a resurgence recently, and food safety is ever important when home canning. Participants attended a 2-hour Canning 101 informational program, which provided them with the safest and most up to date home food preserving information. The course was required in order to attend the 3-day Canning Camp, where participants had hands-on experience canning chicken and green beans in the pressure canner (low-acid foods) and canning pickles, salsa, and jelly in the boiling water canner (high acid foods).

Woodford County Master Gardener's answer horticulture questions and provide Extension resources to Farmer’s Market customers

Woodford County Homemakers, including county and club officers, hold a kick off to prepare for their new program year

Participants use their research-based knowledge and skills to can salsa during Canning Camp
Grow It, Cook It, Eat It!
Many people in Woodford County are growing their own produce in their backyards and preserving their own food. The FCS and Horticulture Agents partnered to teach a season-long program series so local growers could learn firsthand about planting, cultivating, and growing plants as well as preparing, preserving, and cooking the produce of the harvest. Session topics were mushrooms, root vegetables, beans, herbs, greens, tree fruit, and squash. Participants had the opportunity to taste some healthy recipe, showing new ways of using local produce.

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Central Kentucky Tobacco Growers Conference
As tobacco still plays a role in Woodford County agriculture, the Woodford County Extension Service hosted the annual Central Kentucky Tobacco Growers Conference with speakers from around the country. Producers from Woodford and surrounding counties had the opportunity to learn more about specific tobacco production practices and environmental regulations. Producers also met with U.S. Department of Labor representatives to learn more about labor management and available programs.

Woodland Owners Short Course
An eight billion dollar industry in Kentucky, forestry plays a large role in agriculture around the state. Woodford County had the opportunity this year to host a Woodland Owners Short Course with class sessions at the Woodford County Extension Service, and field sessions at the Buckley Wildlife Sanctuary that is operated by the Life Adventure Center of the Bluegrass. Over 100 participants learned about tree and wildlife management, ash tree harvest, and pond management.

50th Annual Woodford Co. Farm Tour
This past year, the Woodford County Extension Service celebrated the 50th Annual Woodford County Farm Tour. Designed to bring awareness to agriculture and showcase innovative farming practices, the Woodford County Farm Tour took 485 participants around the county to many of the original stops from the first tour. Participants learned about grain, tobacco, hay, cattle, and equine production. Other stops showcased the historical heritage of the bourbon industry and its impact on Woodford County agriculture, as well as local foods and gardens.

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