Kentucky Cooperative Extension
UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

2015 Annual Report

Nutrition and Healthy Lifestyles
We Grow Families
We Grow Kentucky
Competitive Agriculture
Social and Economic Opportunities
Life Skills Development
Agricultural and Environmental Quality
Extending Knowledge Changing Lives
Leadership and Volunteerism
As we move full speed ahead into our second century, Extension remains committed to helping people, businesses, and communities build a better future. Through intentional programming that aims to address the pertinent needs of our citizens, our Extension professionals are poised to offer solutions that benefit diverse clientele.

Including a competent work force, we recognize the important fact that our work cannot be successful without the aid of thousands of volunteers who help us reach our goals each year. Whether providing ideas or assisting with the implementation of program efforts, our stakeholders are key in supporting Extension’s mission to make a positive impact on the lives of all Kentuckians. A majority of our success lies within the partnerships formed across the state. This report provides a summary of several of those programs and accomplishments for this year.
“Extension’s Environmental Education Center in Campbell County gave our students real-life experiences. In the classroom, students studied ecosystems, animal adaptations, life cycles, etc... Here, the students can see those in a real world, natural setting. That makes learning stick! This is an excellent culminating activity for our Next Generation Science Standards.”

– Woodfill Elementary School Teachers

The Cooperative Extension Service:

- Improves environmental quality by educating Kentuckians about effective stewardship of natural resources. A total of 18,881 individuals adopted Extension practices of conservation, sustaining and protection of soil resources. In turn, 8,200 also reported making lifestyle changes for the purpose of improving water and/or protecting soil resources.

- More than 9,600 farmers increased profits as a result of adopting one or more practices recommended by Extension.

- Provided educational programming about climate change to 7,550 individuals.

- Assisted Kentucky producers in a globally competitive market. While 20,536 reported an increased awareness of sustainable agriculture practices, 47 percent (9,710) implemented such practices.

Extension drives everything I do in farm production from new crops, new growing systems, to soil and plant health, and more. If UK Extension doesn’t have the information there, they find it for me.

– Kevan Evans

Evans Orchard and Cider Mill
Nutrition and Healthy Lifestyles

Extension has been a valuable partner for refugee farmers in our community. Though many refugees have farming experience, their knowledge of local soil health, pests, and diseases is limited. Extension provides a link to information that helps them to achieve success in growing food. The ability of a refugee to continue their practice of gardening and to grow foods from their home country is very valuable in the process of establishing their new home here in the US.

–Laura Stevens
Community Food Services Coordinator
Refugee Agricultural Partnership Program
Culinary Arts Training Program

“Owsley County Extension is a highly valued school-community partner. Their expertise and willingness to expand learning opportunities for our students goes hand in hand with the vision of our school district.”

–Tim Bobrowski
Superintendent of Owsley County Schools

Extension programs encourage youth and adults to pursue healthy living by:

■ Providing 354,132 families with information on the importance of a physically active lifestyle.

■ Reaching over 172,173 children and youth to encourage the consumption of healthy foods. Over 168,762 gained knowledge about healthier food options, while 71,254 reported actually eating healthier foods.

■ Helping 32,574 residents make healthy lifestyle changes to improve their personal well-being.

■ Inspiring 4,940 residents to increase their consumption of fruits and vegetables after participating in the Plate it Up program.

■ Assisting 146 community partners in the adoption/enforcement of substance abuse prevention policies.

Brandy Murray Calvert, 4-H Agent for Youth Development, Bell County engaging students in an activity from the Health Rocks! program.
Life Skills Development

“The Wood Entrepreneur program is giving me the tools and support to pursue my lifelong dream of starting a business that would otherwise be financially impossible. The program has sheltered me from the unforeseen pitfalls that would have sunk my business before ever getting it off the ground.”

–John Marcum
Cherry Ridge Wood Products, Inc.
Breathitt County, Kentucky

Chelsey Pickens (on the left), ANR Agent for Russell County assists the cooking class canning tomatillos.

Russell County residents enjoy family time in the garden.

Joyce Hildreth, Master Clothing volunteer demonstrates sewing skills in Kenton County.

Youth gather to learn how to organize the Horse Ice Cream Social in Kenton County.

The Cooperative Extension Service continues in its pursuit to help Kentuckians reach their full potential by:

■ Teaching a variety of practical living skills to youth and adults across the state. Over 150,000 have demonstrated skills learned through Extension programming.

■ Involving 88,496 residents in informed and effective decision-making.

■ Empowering 24,768 adults to take ownership of their finances by increasing knowledge related to money management.

■ Encouraging 22,611 youth to make improvements in public speaking. A total of 5,260 used their communication skills to become a leader in 4-H and other organizations.

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Leadership and Volunteerism

“As Washington County Judge Executive, I have witnessed the impact that the Cooperative Extension Service has on our entire community. From youth to adults; homeowners to small business; Extension has programming to challenge and improve all sectors. Many of our current community leaders have been participants of leadership programs through Extension.”

–Judge John A. Settles

“Bearcat Dimes Program helps us focus more on school and guides us to grow into productive people.”

–Bearcat Dimes student
Bryan Station Middle School

“When most people think of 4-H camp, they think of the typical activities, (fishing, swimming, archery, etc.), What these people don’t realize is the depth of the impact camp leaves on the children. For me, camp wasn’t about the classes, or even winning the crazy games we played. Camp was learning about what life really meant and how to live in a positive way. Camp taught me patience, social skills, and how to go up to complete strangers and have full conversations. Camp taught me compassion and that no matter how rough the world can be, there’s always something to look forward to. 4-H camp made me who I am today.”

–John Haddix
4-H staff and former camper

Kentucky Cooperative Extension promotes the development of leaders through community engagement. As a result, Extension has:

■ Aided in the development of personal leadership skills; 165,233 people have put these newfound skills into practice.

■ Equipped 716 with the knowledge to enhance their leadership abilities, and 569 experienced an increase in confidence.

■ Generated 768,431 volunteer hours through various community economic development programs.

■ Continually extended its outreach through the services provided by 980 Master Gardener volunteers, who completed 31,237 service hours in 2015.

■ Promoted the building of stronger relationships by helping 1,575 youth develop their conflict-management skills as a result of participation in 4-H leadership programs.
Competitive Agriculture

“Agriculture Extension provides me with the knowledge I need so that I can generate options in how I grow my business. We are all required to wear a variety of hats managing our farm business.”

—David Burge
Anderson County

“The success of our farming operation and direct beef marketing business was made possible with the education and support we received from Cooperative Extension.”

—Jon Bednarsky, Sherwood Acres Farm
Oldham County

Cooperative Extension promotes research-based practices in agriculture through:

- Serving over 25,000 individuals with programs that changed their knowledge related to the impact of public policies on agriculture and the environment.

- Expanding the number of producers who maintain profitable farming operations. A total of 9,643 farmers reported an increase in profits as a result of adopting one or more practices recommended.

- Helping producers obtain higher returns. A total of 98,595 reported levels of economic impact.

- Exposing 66,334 youth to careers in agriculture, natural resources, and the environment through participation in 4-H science projects.

Josh Duval farm, Warren County, accumulates data using compost for bedding in open barns.

Canola field on the Warkentin farm in Barren County. Chris Schalk, UKAg Cooperative Extension Agent and Dr. Carrie Knott, UKAg Grain Crops Extension Agronomist discussing crop with Terry Warkentin, producer.
Social and Economic Opportunities

“"I probably wouldn’t be farming without Extension. Extension agents here in the county and Specialists from UK and KSU have provided me with guidance and resources throughout the process of starting the farm and now maintaining it."

—Ramsi Kamar
Producer and Owner
Ramsi’s Café on the World, Louisville

Wayne County Farm to School is an outdoor classroom for students and supplies fresh produce to school cafeterias. It has been recognized by USDA as best practice and featured in Farm World.

Ramsi Kamar using his farm produce as he prepares meals in his restaurant.

“The opportunity to participate in the robotics program takes classroom teachings much farther. Instead of saying, ‘I wonder what will happen if we try this’, students can actually say ‘We have a robot so let’s try this and then see what happens.’ It provides a hands-on learning experience that will directly relate to what they see as an engineer if they choose this career path.”

—Herman Smith
Senior Mechanical Engineer
Lexmark International Inc.
4-H Volunteer/Leader
Clark County

As a result of various collaborations and networks formed, Extension has:

- Generated/leveraged over $10 million in grants and resources for counties throughout Kentucky.
- Focused on educating youth on the value of science, engineering, and technology through the participation of 3,097 youth engaged in 4-H robotics programs.
- Increased the awareness of 15,669 individuals who now have a better understanding of managing current economic issues facing their families or businesses. A total of 3,652 set at least one specific savings or health-related goal for their families.
- Emphasized the critical need for employable skills by helping prepare 9,846 people for the workforce.
- Engaged over 17,000 youth in utilizing their skills and talents through community-based service projects.

Students participated in the “It’s Your Reality” financial simulation event at the UK Student Center Grand Ballroom, Fayette County.

Robotics team 3844, Knox County
FY15 Annual Extension Report
Number of Contacts–7,648,745

Program Emphasis
(as defined by number of contacts, 7,648,745)

- Agricultural and Environmental Quality: 11%
- Competitive Agriculture: 23%
- Nutrition and Healthy Lifestyles: 20%
- Leadership and Volunteerism: 9%
- Life Skills Development: 27%
- Social and Economic Opportunities: 10%

Kentucky 4-H
256,345 youth from around the state or 32% of the K-12th grade population participate in 4-H in one or more delivery modes.

How do 4-Hers Participate?
- 154,257 members in 4-H clubs
- 93,082 participants in special interest and short-term programming
- 24,140 campers in a variety of 4-H overnight and day camps
- 145,646 youth reached in school enrichment programs

Grants, Gifts and Contracts (secured by 4-H Foundation, Extension faculty and specialists includes 10.5 M Snap-Ed)

- Federal Funds
- County Funds (county contributions sent to UK for salaries and benefits)
- County Funds (county operational funds that remain in the county)
- State Funds

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

We Grow Ideas.
extension.ca.uky.edu

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.