



EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE

Changing Lives

IN CALLOWAY COUNTY

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



Lush spring growth of Marshall rye grass provides excellent nutrition for lactating cows.

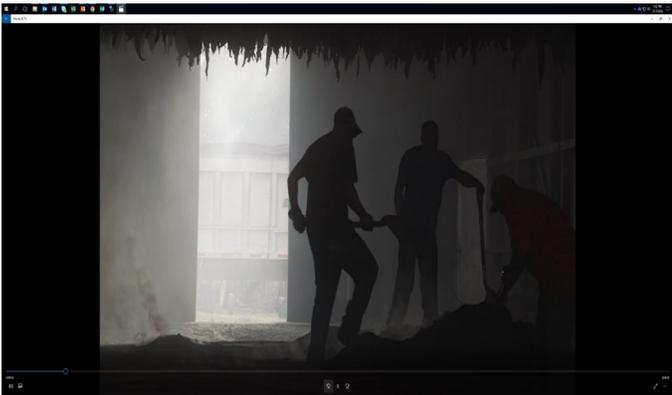
Rejuvenation of Calloway County Cattlemen's

After a multi-year hiatus in meetings and events, the Calloway County Cattlemen's group reformed at this year's spring educational meeting. The educational portion of the meeting was a collaboration between Extension and Murray State University, both providing quality additions to the program. The program kicked off with a hands on tour of the MSU cattle facilities and pastures, along with a detailed inspection of pastures under intensive mob grazing.

Following dinner, speaker Kevin Laurent delivered a well received presentation on marketing cattle throughout the year. The program was received very well by the producers present and we received multiple requests for follow-up programming in this area. We hope to continue this program with biannual educational meetings in the spring and fall.

Priority Program Efforts

- A total of **202** people are now involved in addressing significant community issues
- **170** youth made an impact in their community through service projects
- **250** local residents implemented practices that promote sustainable agriculture
- **75** producers reported an economic impact (i.e., increase in agricultural productivity, increase in higher returns, decrease in expenses) in their agricultural operations
- **170** youth indicated an increase in leadership skills, knowledge or confidence through participation in Extension-related leadership programs
- **485** citizens (youth & adults) acknowledged utilizing the skills learned through Extension programming
- A total of **1225** individuals reported making lifestyle changes (diet, exercise, managing stressors, healthy home practices, etc.) for the purpose of improving their health
- A total of **1376** youth and adults demonstrated informed and effective decision-making skills
- **75** individuals incorporated new or additional conservation practices.



A still shot from the Tobacco Workers Safety video

Tobacco Workers Safety Video

The Calloway County Extension Office, teaming with the Graves County Extension Office and the University of Kentucky Ag Communications group, developed a training video to assist farmers with training their tobacco labor force.

The video was produced in English and Spanish to allow producers to provide training in their worker's native language. We developed this video because we saw a need for our local producers to have access to free, quality, bilingual training materials. By properly training workers in their native language, producers should see a decrease in farm accidents and illnesses, while also keeping their operations GAP compliant.

UK Extension Conducts Multiple On-Farm Trials and Experiments

In conjunction with researchers from the University of Kentucky, we conducted multiple on-farm trails in Calloway County this season. Dr. Brad Lee and multiple colleagues collected data for experiments to determine if the chemicals used to treat poultry litter have an effect on its ability to bond with the soil once applied in the field.

This season we also hosted a soybean variety trial plot, multiple tobacco trial plots, a black shank fungicide plot and filmed the inside of multiple abandoned wells as part of an information gathering experiment. On-farm research and trials have proven to provide valuable research to producers across the region.

Master Gardeners Look to Impact the Community

The Calloway County Master Gardeners began work in the community for the first time as a group this spring. Each Master Gardener must perform 30 volunteer hours a year to maintain their certification. As a group, the Calloway County Master Gardeners chose to use those hours to better their community by helping to maintain and expand multiple gardens around Calloway County.

As a group they also plan to assist with gardens at the Arboretum at Murray State and the Murray Calloway County Park. The first class of Master Gardeners completed their training in August and look forward to serving their community for many years to come.



Above is the garden at the Calloway County Senior Center, where the first class of Master Gardeners (inset) recently began providing maintenance and making minor improvements.

“The Master Gardener class was a growing experience-with plants, friendships and knowledge.”

*- Betty Enoch
Calloway County Master Gardener*



2016 4-H Campers at West KY 4-H Camp

Mysteries in Paradise

In 2016 the Calloway County 4-H Club planned an exciting week of camp with the theme “Mysteries in Paradise”. After receiving a generous donation of \$750 from the Calloway County Extension District Board, Calloway County was able to help twenty other counties raise \$30,000 to provide air conditioning and heat in the cabins at West KY 4-H Camp. This improvement helped combat the growing heat of July.

Calloway County camp numbers have seen a steady increase and that did not change this year. With 98 campers, 52% being first year campers, the camp numbers continue to climb. When surveyed, campers stated they are gaining skills and are glad to learn and grow at 4-H camp together. They are more responsible, tried several new things and returning campers said they will be coming back next year. The camp staff received high praise with 93% of campers saying that staff made camp a lot of fun.

Even though it was a rainy week, the messy weather did not dampen the spirits and attitudes of our campers. While every mystery may not have been solved at camp in 2016, Calloway County campers want to come back to camp. And next year they plan to bring their friends.

4-H Communications

By participating in school communications clubs, 4-H youth are able to give speeches and demonstrations. In the winter and spring of 2016, 350 youth did speeches and 168 did demonstrations for judges and classmates. After speeches and demonstrations were completed, a 6th grade 4-H student energetically told his parents and teachers how much he loved participating in 4-H activities and let them know how excited he was to attend the County Communications contest.

After classroom demonstrations, moving with confidence and poise, 24 youth competed in the County 4-H Communications contest on March 28, 2016. Twenty of those young people will have the opportunity to progress to the Area Communications contest in Carlisle County on April 22, 2016. After receiving scores and comments from the judges, one young man immediately called his parents to let them know he planned to attend the area event.

Public speaking is something that is generally avoided and feared by most people. Because of the communication skills developed during communications activities, the Calloway County 4-H youth are confronting that fear and coming away with confidence.



4-H youth at the 2016 County Communications Day

2016 Volunteer Forum

Since the beginning of the Volunteer Hall of Fame in 2000, Calloway County has had several leaders recognized for their efforts and devoted service. This year Calloway County had volunteers recognized in six categories of the 4-H Volunteer Hall of Fame. These leaders have given selflessly to the 4-H program and have provided outstanding services to our community.

A delegation of 36 attended the 2016 Volunteer Forum in February. Leaders won in Lifetime Achievement, Innovative, Creative, Enthusiastic (ICE), Community Service Adult, Leadership Development, Shooting Sports Volunteer, and Together Each Accomplishes More (TEAM Award). These leaders bring thoughtful and energized ideas to Calloway County and continue to serve and encourage this generation of youth to serve and give to others.



Volunteers and leaders at the 2016 Volunteer Forum

New Fall Series

In October the Calloway County Extension Office started a new Fall Do-it-Yourself series for the Homemakers in the area. The series offered a variety of classes, with lessons on seasonal porch design, preparing your landscape for winter and fresh Thanksgiving centerpieces.

A popular lesson with the Homemakers was “The Art of Making Tamales”. Carlisle County 4-H Agent Kelsey Chadwick led the class through the three hour lesson. Kelsey taught the class how to make authentic Yucatan tamales from the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico.



Homemakers participate in “The Art of Making Tamales” class at the Calloway County Fairgrounds

The class was taught how to use new equipment and learned a few new cooking techniques while they made their tamales.

Using two batches of meat, the class made over 60 tamales. After packing the shredded meat in masa and dropping the corn husk wrapped tamales into the tamalera (tamale steamer), the class learned some food safety rules, including the importance of wearing gloves when working with hot chilies and peppers. Finally, after steaming for nearly two hours, the class was able to enjoy the tamales they prepared.

Based on the success of this class, plans for more cooking lessons may be planned throughout 2017.



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