

EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE

Changing Lives

IN MADISON COUNTY

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



Growing tomatoes in the garden at Liberty Place gave residents a chance to heal while learning a new life skill.

Garden at Liberty Place

The Madison County Cooperative Extension Agent for Horticulture worked with Liberty Place to create a healing garden at the residential site. The agent taught an initial vegetable gardening class for interested residents. The group then planted vegetables in raised beds. For several residents, this was the first time they worked in a garden.

The Madison County Cooperative Extension SNAP-Ed assistants conducted programs on food safety and preparation, food resource management, and nutrition. The garden was very productive. Produce from the garden allowed the residents to have a salad bar for lunch and add fresh vegetables to the meal at dinner. They even made fresh salsa on taco day!

Priority Program Efforts

- A total of 22 people are now involved in addressing significant community issues
- 190 youth made an impact in their community through service projects
- 10 local residents implemented practices that promote sustainable agriculture
- 610 youth indicated an increase in leadership skills, knowledge or confidence through participation in Extension-related leadership programs
- 2,300 youth improved skills in communication, problem solving or group process in addressing community issues and needs as a result of Extension programming
- 3,510 citizens (youth & adults) acknowledged utilizing the skills learned through Extension programming
- A total of 2,775 individuals reported making lifestyle changes (diet, exercise, managing stressors, healthy home practices, etc.) for the purpose of improving their health
- A total of 3,875 youth and adults demonstrated informed and effective decision-making skills
- 706 individuals incorporated new or additional conservation practices.

4-H Partners with Richmond Teen Center

Madison County 4-H and the Richmond Teen Center work toward increasing the leadership and communication skills of at-risk youth from Richmond. Recently, a group of teens was invited to share their stories at the Youth at Heart Conference in Washington D.C. The teens were able to share how much the Teen Center and 4-H has influenced their lives.

Because of this trip, a \$10,000 grant was awarded to the Richmond Teen Center 4-H Program to expand the youth programming at the center.



Teens from the Richmond Teen Center 4-H program share their stories at the National Youth at Heart Conference in Washington D.C.

Extending Grazing Days

In a local farm demonstration where nitrogen was applied to beef cattle pastures, an additional 35 grazing days per acre was gained. In addition, crude protein concentration of the pasture forage increased from 12% to 14.5%. Greater yield and quality indicates that soil nitrogen levels were limiting forage production and is typical of the increased forage potential on many Madison County beef cattle farms.



Nitrogen treated area (front square) compared to non-treated areas (back square and sides).

Extension Homemakers Making a Difference

The Madison County Extension Homemaker Association is a volunteer organization that works with the Cooperative Extension Service to help improve the quality of life for families and communities. Last year over 500 members in 26 clubs reported 5,000 hours of volunteer work for our community. According to Independent Sector, 2015 these hours have a value of \$117,800. One of the longest running community service projects is the bear project. Children who enter the emergency rooms are given a bear making treatment easier and faster.



Since 2000, when the project began, well over 10,000 stuffed animals have been handmade and donated.

Farm Field Day 2016



Farm field day participants enjoy a meal and greetings from ECU Ag Department representatives.

Approximately 350 Madison County residents attended the ECU/Madison County Extension Farm Field Day in late September. Many aspects of modern agriculture production were highlighted from both ECU and UK presenters. Among the topics were cattle reproduction, cover crops, sheep production, fallen animal composting, small acreage production, summer annual forages, and cattle handling.

Meet Your Farmer Tour

Agriculture is important to Madison County! In June, the Madison County Cooperative Extension Office planned a tour to highlight the diversity of farms in Madison County. This self-guided driving tour featured the Madison County Farmer's Market, the Downtown Richmond Farmer's Market, the Berea Farmer's Market, River Hill Ranch Alpaca Farm, Garver U-Pick and Berry Farm, and Eastern Kentucky University's Meadowbrook Farm and Dairy.



Participants, young and old, enjoyed the opportunity to meet local farmers and to shop at our farmers markets.

Make New Friends

Small Friends is for little ones from prenatal to four years of age and those who love them. The group enjoys play time, healthy snacks, and a fun craft each month. Parents receive tips and fellowship time with other parents. Each meeting ends with everyone in a circle to sing, "Make New Friends". Small Friends meets the second Wednesday of each month at the Madison County Extension Education Center.



Small Friends enjoy planting gardens in ice cream cones.

Food Safety When Working Outside

Madison County EFNEP assistants teach food safety to help people avoid the more than 200 known diseases transmitted through foods annually (*The Centers for Disease Control*). Recently, a Hispanic road crew got sick after eating a potluck lunch of meats, cheeses and vegetables that had been stored in a 90° van with no coolers.

The EFNEP assistants, with the help of a bilingual worker on site, provided food safety education. As a result, members of the crew now pack their lunches in insulated bags with blue ice to keep their food at the proper temperature for safe consumption.

The foreman and crew were very appreciative for the information and are now receiving the Spanish version of the bi-monthly Healthy Choices newsletter with more useful information for them and their families.

4-H Camp Volunteers



Counselors race to get fish out of the pie in the Counselor Luau Games!

The 2016 Madison County 4-H Camp was the largest ever, with 333 people attending! This amazing experience would not have been possible without our dedicated volunteers. This year, 47 adults and 30 teens had the opportunity to volunteer during the residential summer camping program.

During the 2016 camping year, these 47 adults contributed \$88,585 to the 4-H camping program when their time is calculated at \$23.56 per hour, the current rate of volunteer time (Independent Sector, 2015). Many thanks to each volunteer!

Holiday Centerpieces

In December 2015, the Madison County Master Gardeners and the horticulture agent held a class about creating holiday decorations using greenery found in nature. Master Gardeners taught the class about floral design and shared ideas on how to incorporate objects found around the home into decorations.



Class participants made a centerpiece to take home.

Beginning Beef Producer Tour



B.J. Weber explains how commodity feeds are utilized in their beef cattle feeding operation at Weber Farms.

In July, a group of 32 beginning beef cattle producers and mentors from Madison County participated in a four-day bus tour to Indiana and Illinois. Farm visits included Weber Beef, John Deere Harvester Works, University of Illinois Beef Research Unit, Finke Angus Farm and Tyson Beef Processing Facility. Beginning producers learned new aspects of the beef industry while connecting with experienced mentors.

4-H Food and Farming

The Madison County Cooperative Extension Service 4-H Program organizes the annual 4-H Food and Farming field days to increase agricultural literacy in elementary aged kids. This year, the 757 local third grade students (and 47 adult chaperones) spent the day in the world of farming, playing fun games, and learning about agriculture.

The Field Days featured 14 interactive agriculture-learning stations that included a hayride, seeing and touching farm animals, trying new foods, and learning about healthy food choices. For many of the students this was their first interaction with real farm enterprises and they were surprised how many of their daily needs are met with agriculture products.



4-H Food and Farming field days allowed kids to see agricultural products, interact with farm animals, try new foods, and learn from local farmers and ag-businesses.



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