

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE
Changing Lives

When you support Extension, for every dollar invested annually in Master Gardener Training and Certification, the county gains \$30 in volunteer service.



The Master Gardener demonstration garden was located behind the Marshall County Extension office.

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Marshall County Master Gardeners Provide Fresh Produce to Limited Resource Women, Children, and Seniors

The Master Gardener demonstration garden produced over 500 lbs. of vegetables that were distributed to Supplemental Nutrition Education Program (SNAP-Ed) participants during Extension educational programs.



extension.ca.uky.edu

The donation from the Marshall County Master Gardeners provided more than 300 participants with over \$15 worth of fresh produce during 2017.

In 2014, the Marshall County Master Gardeners (MG) developed a 3,000 square foot demonstration garden at the county Extension office. The MG prepared the site, grew seedlings inside the Extension office, designed and constructed fencing for climbing vegetables, transplanted seedlings, and tended the garden. The MG harvested over 500 pounds of produce during the 2017 growing season and benefited over 300 people.

The MG partnered with the Extension SNAP-Ed assistant who provides nutrition programming to limited resource households. The assistant conducted programs, demonstrations, and recipe sampling at Lakeland Wesley Village, Jonathon/South Family Resource Center, the Young Mothers Program, and Needline at the Marshall County Health Department. In addition to increasing access to nutritious food, the SNAP-Ed participants improved their food safety skills by learning proper food handling and food storage techniques.

The Marshall County MG provide horticulture education to the community and region, enable limited resource residents to make healthy food choices, and serve as role models of leadership. Next year, the MG plan to expand their garden to serve more families.

The Kentucky Extension Master Gardener Program began in the late 1980's in a few urban counties. Today the program is active in over 50 Kentucky counties. Master Gardeners play a vital role in assisting local Extension offices in providing information to citizens



Master Gardeners created bags of produce with recipes, storage tips, and food safety information to limited resource households in Marshall County.

on lawn and garden issues by phone and/or at Extension offices, public meetings, demonstration gardens, and in partnerships with civic organizations and schools in the community. These volunteers also assist with teaching horticulture to beginning gardeners, and help people explore environmental options for managing lawns and landscapes. The shared interest creates a comradery among volunteers that leads to social interaction over and above the volunteer service.