

EXTENSION Today

IN ANDERSON COUNTY

In Anderson 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, and community and economic development. The Anderson County Cooperative Extension Office is your connection to the University of Kentucky and the world.

You'll see some key numbers in this report. But the numbers don't show you the people or the impact of our work. So the rest of this report shows the faces behind some of the numbers.

Agriculture & Natural Resources Tommy Yankey

A strong market exists for garden chrysanthemums because garden centers and farmers markets desire an inexpensive flowering pot plant to accentuate fall landscape plant sales. Chrysanthemums in containers need consistent and regular irrigation once or twice every day along with regular fertilization throughout the crop. To have mums size up properly requires the use of many specialty fertilizers along with knowing how to use a fertilizer injector in the irrigation system.

Our office worked with Vickie Steele, president of the local farmer's market, to teach her how to raise chrysanthemums commercially. Vickie raised 300 chrysanthemums from propagated cuttings. The greenhouse specialist visited Vickie each week to guide and instruct in proper watering, fertilization and pest control. Vickie was able to market all mums at a premium price and plans to raise chrysanthemums again in 2011.

Our office continues to work with farmers on alternatives using a variety of grasses, legumes and summer annuals to extend the grazing season, reducing the amount of stored feed needed for winter feeding. A goal for all beef producers should be to feed hay

Reaching Out to Anderson County



Educational Programs

Programs presented	303
Total participants	7,482

Educational Contacts

Clientele visits	678
Telephone consultations	8,392
Newsletters distributed	4,387

Volunteer Development

Volunteers	324
Volunteer hours	6,535
Clientele reached by volunteers	2,304



Garden chrysanthemum demonstration at the home of Vickie Steele

60 days or less per year. Buddy Smith successfully grazed 26 cows/calves on 10 acres of field corn through the 2009/2010 winter and 20 acres of stock-piled fescue. No hay was fed the entire winter. Because last year was such a good growing year, cattle were allocated 3 to 4 tenths of an acre per week for grazing, allowing Buddy to harvest 4 acres of corn yielding 160 bushel of corn per acre at the end of April.



Cattle grazing standing corn on Buddy Smith's farm April, 2010

The benefits of using a breeding system that incorporates estrus synchronization and Artificial Insemination (AI) can be tremendous. These systems allow producers to reach certain production or economic goals quicker than natural service and can open the doors to value added markets as well. These benefits include shortening and concentrating the calving and breeding season, increasing the time needed for post partum recovery in cows and first-calf heifers, the ability to induce anestrous cows and pre-pubertal heifers to cycle, moving the breeding season to an earlier time, introducing new genetics into the herd, improving the uniformity of a calf crop (weight, color, disposition), and increasing calf performance and weaning weights with earlier birthdates.

The use of estrus synchronization and AI has been advocated as a way to breed females in a shorter time period and improve the genetics of a cow herd and its progeny without the expense of buying superior bulls. Estrus synchronization, along with artificial insemination, can be a valuable tool for smaller operations where the number of cattle (1-30 head) may

not justify the cost for purchasing a bull of superior quality and genetics.



A uniform group of calves from Mike Wilson's farm using estrus synchronization and Artificial Insemination

Today, estrus synchronization and AI remain to be the most available and widely applicable reproductive biotechnology available to beef producers.

4-H/Youth Development

Marva Gill

Volunteers for the 4-H program are vital. It is only through volunteers that more opportunities are available for our youth. Providing many different and varied learning experiences is what makes 4-H unique. One hundred sixty-eight adult and teen volunteers worked with project clubs, 4-H camp and special interest workshops this past year.



Participants in "Babysitting Adventures, A 4-H Safe Sitter Program"

