

# EXTENSION Today



## IN CHRISTIAN COUNTY

*In Christian 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 Christian 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.*

### 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Christian County welcomes two new agents for 4-H Youth Development, Mia Farrell and Patrick Allen.

Antomia "Mia" Farrell, has been a 4-H agent in Christian County since July 1st. She is originally from Louisville, Kentucky. Mia graduated in May with a B.S. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Kentucky. Mia wants you to know, "If there is anything I can do for you, please do not hesitate to contact me!"



Patrick is originally from Cynthiana, Kentucky (Harrison County). He graduated from Eastern Kentucky University in May 2011 with a degree in Agriculture where he specialized in

livestock production and dairy management. He grew up in 4-H and FFA and after being a member, Patrick remained active as a volunteer. Patrick says, "I am happy to be in Christian County, and I am very

### Reaching Out to Christian County



<i>Educational Programs</i>	
Programs presented	214
Total participants	9885
<i>Educational Contacts</i>	
Clientele visits	280
Telephone consultations	1474
Newsletters distributed	10,676
<i>Volunteer Development</i>	
Volunteers	272
Volunteer hours	5750

excited about the upcoming new year. Please feel free to stop by and talk to me anytime."

### 4-H & Jeffers Bend

Annually Jeffers Bend, an environmental center, hosts a Nature Fest. This year, 4-H taught a session on Solar Energy, the 2011 National Youth Science Day Project, to over 400 4th graders from various Christian County elementary schools. The youth had the opportunity to build their own wind turbine and calculate the speed of it. The youth then were competitive towards one another attempting to make their wind turbine to spin the fastest. This also triggered the youths interest in 4-H, and many youth joined after the program. The youth had fun learning by doing!



Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating. Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

## 4-H Camp

*Everyday Engineering Camp* focused on youth in grades 8 and 9 with a desire to pursue some type of engineering degree post graduation. This camp introduced many engineering fields, including rocketry, landscape design, and hydro-engineering. The youth had the opportunity to use their engineering skills and build a canoe with duct tape and cardboard. Then they had the chance to test the canoes in Hopkinsville High School swimming pool.



## 4-H and Army Families



Christian County is home to the second largest Military Installation in the U.S. The partnership that KY/Christian County 4-H has with the military base is growing strong.

Over 30 Volunteers and 400 youth participated this year. The 4-H program is currently at six sites on the military base. Youth participated in various projects from the variety show to entering entries into the Western Kentucky State Fair. Youth have the opportunity to engage in 4-H through the schools, after school programs, and community clubs. A new push this year with Ft. Campbell is to expand the 4-H program into the geographically dispersed communities such as Oak Grove at the Oak Grove Community Center. The 4-H program will continue to build the youth military network.

## HORTICULTURE

### Master Gardeners Make it Happen!

Master Gardeners, a program run by the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, trains citizens in many areas of horticulture. Upon completion of the Master Gardener education program, par-

ticipants return 30 hours of community volunteer service through organized projects within one year to earn the title Master Gardener and 15 hours annually to maintain their volunteer status. During the 2010 program year:

- 22 Master Gardeners volunteered 301 hours of service in planting and maintaining demonstration gardens at the Extension office and Jeffers Bend Botanical Center and Arboretum;
- 24 Master Gardeners volunteered 303 hours by serving as advisors and members of eight different community committees;
- 20 Master Gardeners volunteered 190 hours of service to youth education of natural sciences.

A total of 1,296 hours of volunteer service has been reported from 35 volunteers. The value of Master Gardener volunteer service equates to \$27,682.56 to Christian County Extension and the county. Additionally, these volunteer attained over 3,917 public contacts.



### Making Farm Produce Safer



The number of outbreaks of food-borne diseases on fresh produce have more than doubled in the U.S. since 1987. While most consumers associate food-borne diseases with improperly stored or poorly cooked animal products, it is clear that contaminated fruits and vegetables can also present a risk. The University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension and Kentucky Department of Agriculture initiated grower training and certification on standardized good agricultural practices (GAP). GAPs are production and post-harvest guidelines designed to reduce the risk of food-borne human disease contamination on fresh produce. These stand-

ards include record keeping for farm sanitation, rodent control, worker sanitation, isolating non-compatible farm practices, and other practices that follow common sense. Fifty-nine farmer's market vendors attended the Christian County GAP training in February 2011 and were subsequently certified to offer samples of their products during market. Evaluation showed all participants increased their knowledge on how to protect their produce from contaminants and that they would implement this new information in their marketing operation.

## **FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES**

### **Christian County/Pennyrile Area Quilt Trail**



Several years ago, the Christian County Extension Office joined in with an effort by the Pennyrile Area

RC&D to promote and develop quilt squares on barns and buildings along the more well-traveled highways of the Pennyrile Area. Grants were found to help with the costs and local groups and sign companies did the squares. 25 quilt squares were put up through this committee.

As people started seeing the squares, they began putting up their own and many times the committee didn't know about it. With the help of the Extension offices in the 9 counties of the area, 75 barn/building quilts squares have been located, photographed, catalogued and put into a brochure and a DVD slide show. These brochures have been distributed to all the Extension Homemakers of the Pennyrile Area (1010 families), agritourism businesses, libraries and Chambers of Commerce.

### **Annie's Project**

Women are involved in farming operations in many different capacities – from being the wife of a farmer to being the primary operator of the farm. Annie's Project is a program that empowers farm women to be better business partners in the ever-changing, dynamic, and complex world of agriculture.

Christian and Hopkins County FCS and Ag/Natural Resources Agents joined together to offer this program to 27 farm wives from both counties over a 2 month period.

Topics included property titles, writing mission statements, Quick-



Books, insurance (family and crop), farmland leasing, USDA cost share program, commodity marketing, alternative farming enterprises and estate planning.

100% of the written evaluations at the end of the program indicated that Annie's Project had empowered them to be a better agribusiness woman and /or partner in the farming operation.

### **Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program**

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (EFNEP) teaches small groups, limited resource families, and youth groups how to improve their diets and health. Nutrition, food preparation, meal planning and food



shopping skills (including reading labels and price comparison) are taught to participants.

The EFNEP program assistant Norma Taylor has worked with 122

limited resource families (meeting monthly for 6-12 months) and 1451 youth. These include families and youth at the Trilog Center, Housing Authority, Sanctuary House, individuals working on their GED's, school classrooms and preschools. Demonstrations of healthy foods and food preparation are also done at the local Farmer's Market.

## AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Over the past year, the Christian County Extension Service has proudly offered educational programming to producers of every commodity grown in the county. Whether you are a part-time producer operating on a small plot of land, or you manage thousands of acres, our programs have been designed to meet your needs. Below you will find a sample of some of our programs which have positively benefited our clientele:

The CPH-45 program consists of beef cattle producers who have gone through the process of weaning their calves, administering a series of vaccinations, and marketing them through special sales where the calves are grouped together in trailer lot-sized loads. Not only do these sales usually offer the producer a premium for his efforts, but the pre-conditioned calves will out perform calves which have not gone through the process. This program has grown tremendously in recent years, and is now being offered at two local locations, both Guthrie and Hopkinsville. During the recent production season, producers who have participated in this program have realized an average increase of \$48.91 per head of increased income over those who have marketed their calves through traditional sales methods.

The Rinse and Return Program gives local producers the opportunity to recycle used pesticide containers, which is a safe alternative disposal method.

This program is a partnership between the Christian County Extension Service, the Christian County Road Department, and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

During the 2011 season, approximately 7,500 empty pesticide containers were recycled and will be used to make items such as shipping pallets, parking stops, and fencing.

Another program which has had a great impact on the local ag economy has been the partnership between the Christian County Agricultural Development Council and the Christian County Conservation District, and their concerted effort to implement the County Agricultural Investment Program. This program allows producers to receive cost share funding

for adopting new production practices which are established under a state wide grant program.

The eligible areas of investment are precision agriculture, dairy diversification, genetic improvement, livestock handling facilities, hay, straw, and commodity storage, livestock fencing, poultry management, forage improvement, and on farm water enhancement. During this current funding cycle, this program has awarded local producers a total of \$250,000 dollars and since its inception over \$3.1 million dollars.

We have also been a part of many of the featured programs designed by specialists with the UK College of Agriculture. Local producers have taken part in such programs as Master Cattleman, Master Grazer, Innovative Tobacco Producers, Annie's Project, and the Grain Crops Academy. Each of these curriculum-based programs are designed to educate producers with current, research based information, featuring the latest in production technologies.

Perhaps the one program offered by our office which impacts the entire community, as well as some of the surrounding areas, is the Dead Stock Removal Program. This program is offered in conjunction with the Christian County Fiscal Court and West Kentucky Waste Management. The purpose of this program is to give livestock producers a safe and environmentally friendly way to dispose of dead livestock. By doing this, we are taking an added step towards the prevention of ground and surface water contamination and reducing the incidence of rodent and scavenger problems across the area.



### **The Christian County Cooperative Extension Service**

*We deliver information, education, solutions.*

For more information, contact us at:

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