

EXTENSION Today

IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

In Franklin 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 Franklin County Cooperative Extension Office is your connection to UK 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 **Samantha Jeffries & Mike Meyer**



Zach Hart, Franklin County 4-H

4-H'er, Zach Hart Sells BIG at KY State Fair!

Franklin County 4-H member Zach Hart has definitely realized the impact that being involved in various 4-H projects can have. Hart, an 8th grade student at Bondurant Middle School, started his livestock club beef project with high expectations. After receiving Reserve Grand Champion honors with his steer at the 2008 Kentucky State Fair, Zach sold his project in the next day's "Sale of Champions" for \$21,250, far exceeding those expectations.

When Zach is not taking care of his livestock projects, he enjoys playing football, guitar, and is a

member of the Franklin County 4-H Skill-a-Thon Judging Team, which tests the livestock knowledge of 4-Hers'. Congratulations Zach Hart, on a successful 4-H project and year!

Dollars & Sense Program at Hearn Elementary

The 4-H Dollars & Sense program is intended to introduce elementary school students to concepts in budgeting and economics. This program is a spinoff of the popular 4-H Reality Store program created in Kentucky. This program focuses on 4th – 6th graders in the school system. Students receive an allowance for a given month and then have the opportunity to spend that allowance at the booths provided. The program was introduced to Hearn Elementary School and had much success. In the future the program is planned to expand to other elementary schools.

School Involvement and Activities

The Franklin County Cooperative Extension Service is proud to introduce Samantha Jeffries and Mike Meyer as our new Extension Agents for 4-H and Youth Development.

The school year is off to a great start and your local 4-H program is continuing to support the school system providing core curriculum lessons and club opportunities for elementary schools here in the county. Once a month, a 4-H Agent attends the schools, both 4th and 5th grade classes, to offer material in a variety of subject matters including;

Health, Natural Resources, Family Consumer Science, Animal Science, Communication, and Leadership. Each meeting also allows time for the agents to address current issues and upcoming events in 4-H, encourage enrollment and participation in various activities, as well as learn and develop club officer opportunities. Now that both 4-H Agent positions have been filled, plans are to expand to other schools within the county.

***Family and Consumer Sciences
Tamera Thomas***

With the changes in our economy, the program continues to provide educational information concerning family resources management, health and wellness.



Front row: left to right: Ashley Harper and Iesha Tillman. Back row: left to right: R. Clay Hulette, President First Federal Savings Bank, Erica Willard, Maria Williams, Anisha Adams, Taylor Myers, and instructor Brenda Scruggs

Money Matters

The Franklin Co. Extension Service, First Federal Savings and FCHS Phoenix Academy recently collaborated to pilot “RU Money Smart” mini-workshops to several of the school’s students. The students learned the importance of banking, using credit wisely, obtaining a credit report, establishing a spending plan, tracking their spending and saving. Mr. R. Clay Hulette, President First Federal, encouraged students to think about their financial futures and presented them with \$25.00 checks. Students were awarded certificates of completion by

Mrs. Tamera Thomas, County Extension Agent, Family and Consumer Sciences Agent.

Franklin County Homemakers

Celebrating 75 years, Franklin County Homemakers continue to make charitable contributions to ovarian cancer research, Indian Summer Camp and other worthy causes. Their involvement in the community continues to show through their commitment to volunteerism.

Continuing their deep commitment to education, the Franklin County Homemakers awarded its annual scholarship to David Hughes, a student at Sullivan University in Louisville majoring in culinary arts.

Supporting Limited Resource Families

The Family and Consumers Sciences program piloted “Raising Kentuckians: A Nurturing Program for Families” at the Simon House for parents and children ages zero to five years of age. Parents learned skills that increase their ability to understand and anticipate the challenges of parenting without placing their children at risk for abuse Franklin County High School volunteered their time for 14 weeks to read stories and play games with the children. The program was supported through a grant from the University of Kentucky.

Investing 101

Dr. Sue Badenhop taught investing basics to a group of 25 Franklin Countians. The seminar covered basic investment questions including how to read the prospectus, goal setting and objectives, determining risk and options for purchasing stock.

Family Resource Management

The Family Development Management program continues to serve families in our community by hosting day camps for elementary and middle school youth. The program also aided by teaching them how to plan, shop and prepare low-cost healthy meals for their families.

Special Interests Classes and Seminars.

Members of our community enrolled in scrapbooking, quilting, basic sewing and food preservation classes. A multi-county FCS program event “Derby from Start to Finish” drew 200 people

for a fun-filled day to learn new ways to prepare for their Derby festivities. Former *Courier-Journal* Food Editor, Sarah Fritschner and others with various areas of expertise presented. Franklin County residents with talents and a desire to teach craft skills or program ideas are encouraged to share them with the extension office.

Health and Wellness

The Family and Consumer Sciences program continues its involvement in support of community health fairs and teaching nutrition and food safety at senior citizens agencies and housing facilities.

Horticulture Kim Cowherd

Franklin County Horticulture program provides research based information to homeowners, commercial landscape professionals, small farm producers and kids and youth to be better consumers and stewards of the plant world and our environment. Plants are an important part of everyone's life and sound, research based knowledge helps us use and conserve these resources wisely.

Horticulture Programs

Horticulture programming and publications cover a multitude of various topics and address all members of the community. Some of these 2008 programs included: Landscape Design- a how-to for homeowners; Turf Care- all about lawns in every season; the Horticulture Hotline- a monthly newsletter packed with horticultural topics; Pre-school gardening- age 3-4 learn where their food comes from; Eating Local- why eating Ky Proud is important; Civic Club speaking engagements- presentations on everything from Extension to Spring Gardening to Landscape Design. The Franklin County Extension Horticulture program participated in the annual Kentucky Herb Festival, Frankfort City Arbor Day Celebration, the Kentucky Federated Garden Club Garden School, and Commonwealth Credit Union's annual 50+ Festival.

Farmers Market

Franklin County Extension supports and advises the Franklin County Farmers Market. The Market

Association had 35 members this season with 15 participating in the Farmers Market Nutrition program that supplies coupons to WIC and Senior recipients for purchase of fresh, local produce. The Franklin County Market offers a weekly e-newsletter to consumers with product and special event information. The Market partnered with Kentucky State University Small Farms Program to hold a special 3rd Thursday Thing program. The Franklin County Market was invited to participate with the first ever, 1st Lady of Kentucky's Farmers Market on the Capitol grounds this summer. This model event, show-cased the best Ky Proud products and the richness and variety that Farmers Markets have to offer to all Kentuckians.

Kentucky Extension Master Gardener Program

The Franklin County Master Gardeners are very active and returned over 1200 volunteer hours to Extension and the community this year. This program extends the opportunity for more Franklin Countians to have access to UK Horticultural information. These Master Gardeners answer homeowner questions; plan and carry out educational trips and programming. The first Master Gardener Association was also formed in Franklin County this year.



Master Gardeners learn about fruit tree pruning and diseases

Agriculture & Natural Resources
Keenan Bishop

Franklin County is no longer an agrarian county but still relies on agriculture as a livelihood, as a lifestyle and for recreation. The latest agricultural census is due to be updated but as of six years ago agriculture generates 12.1 million dollars for our local economy. Crops contribute 7.36 million, and livestock 4.78 million. The farm population of around 689 farms is unique in that 60% work off the farm and 44% are part-time farmers who spend 200 days or more in off-farm employment. The average farmer here is a 57 year old white male farming 119 acres with farm revenue of \$17,000. Only about 11% are female. Crop land is the predominant feature covering over 58% of farms. This includes hayfields which most often get grazed throughout the summer and fall as well. Pastures compose about 15%, while one quarter is in woods which may or may not be grazed.

Many improvements have been made to the local farm infrastructure due to government programs (NRCS State Cost share, EQIP, WHIP, Phase I, etc). These cost-sharing opportunities have allowed farmers and landowners to make short and long term improvements such as diversification into vegetables, fruits, horses, goats and sheep; cattle handling, feeding, watering and breeding; soil fertility; fencing; pasture species, woodland to name a partial list.



Cattlemen's Education Tour to Texas

Examples of Agricultural Programs include Soil Testing, Hay Sampling, Ration Balancing, Plant and

insect identification, Winter Schools, Farm-City Banquet, Farm-City Field Day, Annie's Project, Master Cattlemen Program, Advanced Master Cattlemen Program, Master Grazer Program, Heifer Sale, Cattlemen's Association, Agricultural Development Council (Phase I), Horse College, equipment & tool rental and a multitude of topical workshops. The Agriculture Extension Program provides educational information and educational services to all citizens, both rural and urban.

We Grow Ideas

Reaching Out to Franklin County

<i>Educational Programs</i>	
Programs presented	687
Total participants	18,763
<i>Educational Contacts</i>	
Clientele visits	156
Telephone consultations	41,675
Newsletters distributed	24,000
<i>Volunteer Development</i>	
Volunteers	317
Volunteer hours	27665
Clientele reached by volunteers	4530

The Franklin County Cooperative Extension Service

We deliver information, education, solutions.

For more information, contact us at:

101 Lakeview Court
 Frankfort, KY 40601-8749
 (502) 695-9035
 Fax: (502) 695-9309
www.ca.uky.edu

