

EXTENSION Today



IN GREEN COUNTY

In Green 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 Green 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.

Jane Todd Crawford Quilt Trail

Images of quilts are popping up everywhere as bright patterns on the sides of weathered barns and other buildings across the commonwealth. There is a need for more tourism in Green County and a quilt trail is a wonderful way to bring interest to the area. In efforts to attract more tourists to Greensburg/Green County Kentucky, the Green County Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent, the Green County Arts Council, Greensburg City Hall, Taylor County RECC and numerous volunteers teamed up to create the Jane Todd Crawford Quilt Trail. The committee received a grant from the Tour SEKY Heartland Waterways Corridor to start the program in 2008. Green County has a total of 11 quilts around the county, with several more applications pending. This project has drawn a lot of interest among the local folks as well as tourists from other areas.



Reaching Out to Green County



<i>Educational Programs</i>	
Programs presented	320
Total participants	14,775
<i>Educational Contacts</i>	
Clientele visits	4,986
Telephone consultations	1,568
Newsletters distributed	8,640
<i>Volunteer Development</i>	
Volunteers	639
Volunteer hours	10,406
Clientele reached by volunteers	28,413

Once the 12 block mark is reached, the next goal is to develop the Jane Todd Crawford Quilt Trail Driving Map with maps available at local businesses and City Hall.

The Jane Todd Crawford Quilt Trail committee meets several times throughout the year and spends countless hours drawing, painting and hanging the quilt blocks. The committee also promotes this effort at several community events such as Cow Days, Art in the Alley and the Green County Fair. Efforts are being made to have the Jane Todd Crawford Quilt Trail a part of the Kentucky Quilt Trail Statewide Project sponsored by the Kentucky Arts Council.

Project Days Help Youth Learn Life Skills

Many people remember the lessons of life that their parents or grandparents taught them growing up. With today's families having two working parents, the increase in single parent families and grandparents raising grandkids, many youth are failing to learn the life skills necessary for them to be productive citizens. Green County 4-H, part of the Cooperative Extension Service, identified Project Days as way to provide youth a non-formal learning environment to help them develop critical life skills, foster citizenship, and promote leadership. Youth were provided a mix of project events for them to participate relating to nutrition, natural resources, safety and home environment in varying delivery methods like afterschool, night and weekend events and all day camps. These events were taught by leaders of the community and County Extension Agents. Five hundred twelve youth from Green County participated in eleven different project events. According to a Pennsylvania Cooperative Extension Study of life skills and 4-H participation, they documented a correlation between 4-H projects and life skills; "The statistical analysis demonstrated that youth's ability in the five life skills measured (i.e., decision-making, critical thinking, communication, goal-setting, and problem solving skills) was significantly greater after the program than before the program." Through surveys, youth stated that they made definite changes in their lives. Ninety-one percent of the youth stated they would implement at least one safety practice they learned. Of those involved in the nutrition projects, 86% said they would eat a more balanced diet and are now able to understand a food label. The Pennsylvania study showed that youth who participate in 4-H projects saw their communication skills increase by 10% and their goal setting skills improve by 11% improving the linkages towards the youths' academic success and positive engagement with their community.



Kentucky Agricultural Relief Act

The summer growing seasons for Central Kentucky over 2007 and 2008, were drought stricken. The poor weather, along with lower than expected commodity prices and increased fertilizer prices, made this a trying time for the agriculture producers of Green County. With the aid from the Kentucky Agriculture Development fund in the form of the Kentucky Agricultural Relief Act, producers were able to apply and receive grant funding in our county in the amount of \$225,000.

Projects funded from the program ranged from fencing, forage and pasture improvement, to improved water establishments. Over 140 different producers were able to utilize this opportunity alone. 100% of the evaluations collected stated that this program added to their overall operation's bottom line. Phase I funding not only reduces the financial burden on producers, but also leads to increased profitability on their operations. Although the initial savings created by cost share can significantly enhance a producer's bottom line, adding new and improved practices to a farm operation yields long term results that can be measured for years.

Beef Management in Green County

Green County's landscape encompasses over 34,000 head of beef cattle. Beef cattle production makes up over 24% of the Green County agriculture economy.

The Green County Agriculture Advancement Council selected beef cattle management as a top priority for the county. Strong efforts by the Green County Cooperative Extension Service, in collaboration with Adair and Taylor Counties, have helped to aid producers in producing beef as efficiently as possible with increased management practices. News articles, radio programs, a management short course, and one on one consultations, have helped to provide producers with the best education possible on how to efficiently manage their cattle operations. The past two years of drought, coupled with high fertilizer and feed prices, have made their management decisions even more important. Results of the management course alone showed that 100% of the participants reported a gain of knowledge in costs of production, enterprise budgeting, and winter feeding. 94% of the participants gained knowledge in setting priorities.

Couponing 101

A major source of spending for families is in their weekly or monthly grocery shopping. In 2003, the USDA estimated that most households spend an average of \$40 per person each week at the grocery store. During difficult financial times and with a state wide unemployment rate of approximately 9.8%, the Green County Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent created a pilot meal planning and coupon education class to help reduce the cost of the weekly grocery bill and make meal planning easier for families.

Green County has had over 100 participants attend the Couponing workshops that demonstrated how to plan meals and shop using available resources such as sales and coupons. After applying the information learned in the workshop, attendees verbally communicated a weekly savings of 30-50% in their weekly grocery bill. A monthly specialty coupon club was formed, which meet on the 2nd Saturday of the month and has approximately 10 members and growing each month, to share ideas, sales and to exchange coupons.

Community Service Focus of 4-H Clubs

Adults who began volunteering as youth are twice as likely to volunteer as adults as those who did not volunteer when they were younger, according to a survey of over 4,000 people commissioned by Independent Sector. Brandeis University found that service-learning led to a “substantial, statistically significantly” reduction in arrests of middle school students. The Cooperative Extension Service and Green County 4-H identified community service as a priority



for their youth program. Youth-Adult teams identified areas in which 4-H members could have an impact in their communities, coordinated the planning and implementation and evaluated the activities. The preteen youth chose two projects. The school beautification project was chosen as it honored a student and teacher who had passed; their food drive collected over

2,000 items for the local food pantry that serves hundreds of families a year. The older youth chose to offer a safety education program to the community reaching over five hundred youth and to participate in the community holiday celebration reaching over one hundred families through their free crafts. After surveying the 384 youth involved in the community service events, sixty-seven percent felt more attached to their community with greater pride. Students engaged in service-learning showed an increase in the degree to which they felt aware of community needs, believed they could make a difference, and were committed to service now and in the future.

Leadership Skills in Green County

Government and local officials have stated that it is critical to the well being of Green County to help increase the knowledge of local leaders and how that they could best help the community that they lived in. Over the past nine years, Leadership Green County has been implemented to do just that. The Green County Cooperative Extension Service, in collaborative effort with Greensburg Chamber of Commerce, the Green County Industrial Foundation, and the Leadership Kentucky Foundation, has implemented Leadership Green County. This leadership program is an eleven part series instructing its participants on issues such as agriculture, health, government, education, and economic development. Since its creation the program has helped to reach over 104 different participants. The class of 2009 graduated 12 participants. 100% of these participants indicated through testimony evaluations that they had a larger knowledge base and understanding of Green County as a result of the program. Upon graduating the program, many participants are now very active within the community in variety of ways.

The Green County Cooperative Extension Service

We deliver information, education, solutions.

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