

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 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.

Agriculture Development Fund

In April 2000, the Kentucky General Assembly allocated agriculture 50% of Kentucky's Master Settlement Agreement in House Bill 611. The Cooperative Extension Service was named administrators of the County Agriculture Development Councils to help facilitate the development of a short and long term plan for the agriculture, cultivate ideas for projects, prioritize projects and distribute the funds in a responsible manner.

The Green County Cooperative Extension Service has worked closely with the Green County Agriculture Development Council to develop opportunities to enhance the profitability of farming enterprises and promote agriculture diversification. Through efforts made by extension and the council, over \$1 million in cost share funds have been allocated to enhance farm profitability over the past three years. This year's investment included the forage improvement program which invested over \$300,000 in Green County Farms.

The impact of the Agriculture Development funds has been tremendous. The obvious impact of financial support has helped farmers create or sustain farming enterprises. The cost-share funds have created an avenue for brainstorming and planning for agriculture's future in each community. A short and long-term plan was developed for Green county assessing needs, assets and future goals. The agriculture development funds will have a long lasting impact on agriculture in each of our Kentucky communities.

Green County 4-H Water Camp

Green County 4-H participated in a special overnight camp sponsored by a grant from a multi-state effort piloted in KY and TN. The pilot was funded by the Southern Region Water Education Network USDA-CSREES 406 grant. Numerous partners contributed to the success of this project, including EPA Region IV's Watershed Education Network, Kentucky Water Resource Research Institute, United States Forest Service, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, University of Kentucky Tracy Farmer Center for the Environment, and the University of Tennessee Extension. The Kentucky camp was conducted at the Lake Cumberland 4-H Camping Center where the twelve participants received an extensive hands-on program of exploring many water systems including karsts, wetlands, lakes and streams. The participants studied water quality and how human interactions can degrade our water. From an attitudinal study of the participants, all responded that they felt it necessary to share the importance of having clean water for humans and animals. Each participant committed to using less water for personal reasons including baths, showers and brushing teeth.



Forages in Kentucky

The largest crop grown in Green County by volume is its forage base. Forages in Green County encompass more than 175,000 acres. Over 40,000 head of grazing livestock thrive on this crop and they annually add 11 million dollars to Green County's agriculture economy which also has a 66 million dollar effect on the overall economy of Green County. The Green County Agriculture Advancement Council identified forage production as a major concern to Green County livestock. The Green County Cooperative Extension Service has made a strong effort the past three years to meet the forage producer's needs in Green County. The Green County Cooperative Extension Service, Green County Farm Bureau, and the Green County Conservation District have worked closely together to provide the best education possible to county residents. Newspaper articles, radio programs, publications, and newsletters were utilized to help producers efficiently produce quality forage. Alfalfa variety trials, a red clover research plot, a grazing study, a hay quality contest, forage production programs in accordance with Taylor and Adair Counties, and several field days have been utilized in efforts to help producers understand variety selection, harvesting practices, and hay storage, along with maturity levels in hay.



Leadership Green Program

The Green County Cooperative Extension Service served the past two years as the coordinator for the local Leadership Program. Nineteen community leaders and high school students were enrolled in the program and experienced an in depth study of various sectors of our community: tourism, business development, government, education, agriculture, human services, etc. Working with a governing board, over \$4000 was raised to support the program. Kenneth Pigg, Associate Extension Professor of the University of Missouri evaluated similar programs in 2001 and identified seventy distinct beneficial outcomes participants gain from participating in community leadership programs despite differences in communities and differences in program topics. The beneficial outcomes can be summaries as personal growth and self-efficacy, community commitment, shared future and purpose, community knowledge, and civic engagement. Pigg considered these outcomes to be critical for a leader (emerging or existing) to be successful and contributes success to individual self-efficacy and community knowledge which are two key results of participating in community leadership programs. Individual topic sponsors were recruited from previous graduates and each participant has accepted a new leadership role in a civic club or community organization as part of their successful completion of the program.

Baskets

Over 35 people have participated in the monthly Basket program at the Green County Extension Office, 86% of participants being new to Extension programs. This program teaches the participants the history, construction, collection, care and preservation of baskets, along with how to build their collection of baskets and/or learn new skills to share with others. One client stated, "I have shared with many people (the skill of basketry), maybe as many as a hundred." Since the class started, of those who were surveyed, 46 additional baskets have been made outside of the class, 17 of them being sold for a profit.



Sun Safety

The incidence of skin cancer has been rising at an alarming rate for the past several years. This poses a significant public health problem in the United States. The American Cancer Society estimates that during 2005, about 1 million new cases of non-melanoma skin cancer and about 59,580 new cases of malignant melanoma will be diagnosed (1 out of very 5 persons.) It is expected that 10,590 Americans will die of skin cancer. Of the approaches to cancer control that can reduce mortality from skin cancer, screening holds the greatest promise for a rapid and major impact.

In effort to address this issue, the Green County Cooperative Extension FCS agent participated in the Agriculture Field Day and the Farm Safety Day to teach the farmers and the children of Green County about the importance of wearing proper clothing and sunscreen to protect their skin while working or playing outside. Farmers and children were able to detect skin damage by the sun before it is visible to the eye with the derma scan (ultraviolet light) machine. As a result, 100% of participants said they would use sunscreen to prevent further damage to their skin.

The Green County Cooperative Extension Service

We deliver information, education, solutions.

For more information, contact us at:

106 South Public Square
Greensburg, KY 42743-1533
(270) 932-5311
Fax: (270)932-4390
www.ces.ca.uky.edu/green