

EXTENSION Today

IN LARUE COUNTY

In LaRue 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 LaRue 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.

Community Outreach/Economic and Leadership Development



The **LaRue County Farmers Market** was open twice a week from early May until early Sept. Twelve local producers signed up for this year's market, with an average of 4 setting up each market day. The number of customers coming into the market since its first year has nearly tripled.



A new event this year was a **Taste of LaRue County**, held in June. Extension staff teamed up with meat & produce growers and a small business owner to promote buying local. It was attended by 75 persons with 25% of these being new to the Cooperative Extension Service.

Reaching Out to LaRue County



<i>Educational Programs</i>	
Programs presented	499
Total participants	14642
<i>Educational Contacts</i>	
Clientele visits	2045
Telephone consultations	2781
Newsletters distributed	12644
<i>Volunteer Development</i>	
Volunteers	336
Volunteer hours	11104
Clientele reached by volunteers	4500



2011 Extension Expo had over 650 in attendance, with 74 educational booths promoting area services and businesses. Nineteen booth participants reported making over 100 new contacts for their business, organization or service agency.

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Community Outreach/Economic and Leadership Development



A **Master Clothing Volunteer** leads local group of volunteers called the Nifty Needles in making various service items year round for all ages and needs.

New service projects this year were: lap quilts which were presented to some residents at local Sunrise Manor Nursing Home. And chair back covers w/ pockets for extra storage in the KERA preschool and Headstart classrooms.



LaRue Co. Community Early Childhood Council

helps local children through training, resource materials advocacy and collaboration. The Council sponsors two, day long trainings each spring and fall for local child care workers. This council also provides a parenting resource magazine to each childcare center, Headstart and Larue County Preschool for local parents. The council has received a \$10,000 grant for FY 2012 to help promote early childhood education.



The Kentucky Youth Seminar is an excellent opportunity for the local youth who earn the right to attend by being the top students in the local American Private Enterprise

System program. This year's participants included a \$600 scholarship winner at the state level, as well as three winners to the national conference.



4-H is marketed each year at the annual Extension Expo. Different clubs set up their own booths and 4-H Camp and membership is promoted at the general 4-H booth. It is an

excellent opportunity for new member and volunteer recruitment.

Healthy Individuals and Families



Food Preservation and food safety are always popular topics during the summer and fall. Classes were offered on home canning. Most of the persons attending these classes were new

to the Extension Service. Hundreds of questions about food preservation are answered each year via face-to-face, phone, email or Facebook.



Small Steps to Health & Wealth

Encourages participants to make positive behavior changes to simultaneously improve their health and personal finances. A diverse

group of 17 adults participated in some part of a 9 week class series. This was done in conjunction with a Family Fitness Club activity held at a school gym, sponsored by the Family Resource Centers. Six of the adult participants brought their children to work out with them.



Scotty Lee provides instruction for the 4-H Gardening Club meetings. During the spring and summer months, the club members meet monthly and take home seeds and plants

to start their own gardens at home. Parents have stated that by growing their own vegetables, their children are more likely to eat and try new vegetables.

Enhancing Lifeskills and Fostering Youth Development



The Wranglers 4-H Horse Club teaches members basic horse care, while also providing the opportunity for youth to show at the District 4-H Horse Show. Those who qualify

advance to the state show. Carey Coffey is pictured at the state show, preparing for a class.



Each summer, 4-H Camp is a popular activity for LaRue County youth. Over 100 campers enjoy the four day camp at Lake Cumberland. Activities include swimming, canoeing, fishing, shooting

sports, crafts, high ropes and many more.



4-H Rabbit Club members brought a few rabbits to show the 4-H Cloverbud Club members. The rabbit club members talked about basic rabbit care and discussed some of the

many breeds of rabbits.



4-H Hands to Paws Dog Club members enjoyed making homemade dog treats. Members meet monthly and often bring their dog to the meetings to work on obedience and agility training.



The 4-H Livestock Club includes youth who show all species of livestock. Lexi Grimes showed goats this past year for the first time. Other club members show beef cattle, dairy cattle and sheep.



4-H vegetable exhibits were plentiful this year at the LaRue County Fair. Many of the 4-H Gardening Club members entered their vegetables for judging. Homemaker

leaders volunteer to help keep the Floral Hall building open for viewing during the fair.



Leslie Pike was a State 4-H Demonstration Champion this year with her demonstration on how to grow your own sprouts. She incorporated horticulture, as well as the

nutritional benefit of eating sprouts.



Michaela Rock and Stefan Cowley have repeatedly earned the most points for the 4-H Awards Point System in the Junior and Senior Divisions. They were recognized for their

efforts last December at the annual 4-H Awards Banquet.



The 4-H Teen Leadership Academy is a multi-county leadership program for 8th – 11th graders. Only five teens are selected each year from LaRue County. The program lasts ten months and includes a day-long session each month focusing on a different aspect of leadership.



4-H members who completed a record book were awarded with a trip to Mammoth Cave this year. Some of the participants pose for a picture after coming out of the cave.

Optimizing Crop Profitability



The Annual Grain Field Day and the Corn and Soybean Variety Plots were conducted for the twenty-sixth year. A Grain Field Day at the plots had 60 participants. Local

cooperator farmer was Kevin McCubbin. Local and regional grain dealers assisted. Yield information was provided to county grain farmers to consider in next year's variety selections.



The Extension Office Soil Testing program tested and made recommendations on 325 soil samples over the last year. The Extension Office also assisted in the identification of numerous

farm, home, and landscape pests, problems and conditions, and provided recommendations for these situations. Rinse and Return for pesticide containers was conducted again this year.



Both extreme wet and dry conditions for this year's growing season caused problems in several crop areas, especially in grain crops, and tobacco. Advice was given to farmers and

homeowners to correct their weather related problems.



The Leadership LaRue Class of 2011 toured Lee's Garden Center, Hinton's Farm Market and Orchard, Ragland Farm (swine & grain), and Myer's Surreal Farm (livestock & forages)

for the class's Agriculture Day. The class learned of Extension and agriculture's importance to LaRue County.

The LaRue County

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We deliver information, education, solutions.

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Cooperative Extension Service

Optimizing Livestock Profitability



Since 2001, the LaRue County Agricultural Development Council has reviewed and prioritized over \$1.75 million in grant applications from local agencies/groups that has

improved the agricultural income in LaRue County.

This year's CAIP fund was administered by the LaRue County Beef Cattle Association and \$135,000 was distributed, 75% of which was used for the Farm Structure and Commodity Storage investment area.



Topics related to the beef management and the industry were presented at eleven meetings of the Beef Producers with an average attendance of 60. A Beef Field Day was held at the

Jerry Gaddie farm.



Extension assisted goat and producers through six educational meetings, a three session Goat College, regional meetings and activities, goat diversification, County Fair Goat and Sheep Shows, and market development.