

EXTENSION Today

IN NELSON COUNTY

In Nelson 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 Nelson 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.

Ron Bowman Agriculture & Natural Resources

Agriculture remains an important economic force in Nelson County. Total cash receipts from agriculture products were \$39.1 million in 2007. Two thirds of these receipts were from livestock sales and one third from crops sales. In the last 20 years Nelson County has lost 25,000 acres and 237 farms to development.

Traditional educational programs were held for beef, swine and grain production. Farm visits for disease identification and control, weed and insect problems and other management issues also demand a large portion of time. Other more intense programs include:

Phase I Tobacco Programs

To date, over \$1,500,000 has been distributed to farmers on a 50% cost share basis for their completed projects in Beef and Dairy Genetic Improvement, Forage Improvement, Cattle Handling Equipment Improvement, Meat Goat Herd Establishment, Swine Diversification, Agriculture Diversification and Hay, Straw and Grain Storage. To date more than 740 producers have been successful in obtaining Phase I \$'s in the 8 program areas.

Master Cattlemen & Master Grazer Programs

Our Master Grazer and Master Cattlemen programs have worked well the past three years since the inception of the programs. After core groups are trained initially there are opportunities for smaller

Reaching Out to Nelson County



<i>Educational Programs</i>	
Programs presented	187
Total participants	11,172
<i>Educational Contacts</i>	
Clientele visits	745
Telephone consultations	4,930
Newsletters distributed	20,044
<i>Volunteer Development</i>	
Volunteers	387
Volunteer hours	16,872
Clientele reached by volunteers	4,890

groups to pursue more focused initiatives that are of interest to them. Currently we have an Advanced Master Cattlemen group working on an alternative markets program. Twelve producers (3 from Nelson) from the three counties are working in conjunction with UK Beef Specialists to breed their cow herds to the same bull with top EPD's for beef carcass merit. The producers will retain ownership on those calves through the harvest process. The first groups of cows were bred with a synchronization protocol in late 2007. They will calve in the fall of 2008 and be sent to the feedlot in the late spring of 2009. A group of Advanced Master Grazers was formed in May to focus on 365 Day Grazing. This concept promotes grazing animals an optimal amount of time to reduce expenses for hay harvesting and storage. 13 Nelson County Producers are involved in this program.

Brandi Cope **Family & Consumer Science**

The goal of the Family & Consumer Science program is to strengthen the family unit through educational programs given in food preparation, preservation, safety, nutrition, and health, management, and leadership. Each area provides information so people can become informed decision makers as it pertains to their home, family, and community.

Programs, information, and assistance were given to Extension Homemakers, quilters, civic groups, Nelson County Fair Participants, Senior Citizens, preschoolers, Day Care centers, school activities and the general public.

Monthly lessons for 125 Extension Homemakers included: Whole Foods for Whole People, Fashion Accessories & Shoe Essentials, Holidays around the world, The Longest Goodbye, Low Guilt Desserts, Controlling Clutter, Don't lose It-Move It, and Main Dish Meals.



Nutrition Programs have been presented to day cares, preschoolers and head start classrooms. "Kids Korner" is an educational newsletter reaching 518 preschoolers and their parents. They were delivered every month to preschools and head starts across Nelson County.

Children from the community have participated in a monthly cooking school, held at the extension office. It promotes food safety and safety in the kitchen. The children are taught how to prepare food measure ingredients and how to read recipes. 6-10 children participate each month.

International and community projects by Extension Homemakers included: \$2,590.00 for Pennies for Friendship and one \$500.00 scholarship was awarded to a Nelson County High school Graduate. Money for Pennies for Friendship was earned by having an auction of baskets at the Area Homemaker Meeting in April. Homemakers also helped in preparation for Nelson County's Relay for Life. They prepared the meal for survivors and their families. The Lincoln Trail Annual Area Homemaker meeting was held in Nelson County this year. They served an audience of approximately 150. With "Kentucky Joe", from the ABC reality show, "Survivor" and the KY Dept. of Ag. being the guest speaker.

Adam P. Haggard **4-H Youth Development**

Nelson County's youth are a diverse and valuable resource. Tomorrow's work force of teachers, police & firefighters, factory workers, parents, volunteers, and neighbors are today's youth. As our children grow, 4-H provides opportunities to develop basic life skills they will need to succeed as adults through a hands on approach of learning by doing. Over 3,000 Nelson County youth are involved throughout the year in various ways.

4-H school involvement continues to grow in Nelson County. The Kentucky 4-H Core Curriculum consists of six learning areas that meet Kentucky's Learning Goals and Academic Expectations. Teachers work with 4-H to provide programs that meet learning needs in these areas. Some of the Special Interest Projects and Class Enrichment programs include: Reality Store, Future Financial Planning, Project Wild, Chick Incubation, Bicycle Safety, Health & Nutrition, and Native American Culture.

Project Clubs are a unique way for youth to be involved in specific programs based on interests they have. Some of Nelson County's 4-H project clubs include: Sport Fishing, Dog, Horse, Livestock, Shooting Sports Education, Teen Council, Sewing, and the Goat Club. These clubs provide opportunities to develop and improve skills and knowledge in the area of interest according to the club mission. The Teen Council and all of the Project Clubs are involved in community projects such as Adopt-A-Highway, United Way, Relay for Life, and Angel Tree.

January to June Clubs were a continued success in their fourth year. Youth had the opportunity to participate and learn various projects during a six month period of workshops. 4-H members completed projects and exhibited them at County and District events and the Nelson County Fair. January to June Clubs projects include: Cooking, Country Ham, Electric, Financial Education, Natural Resources, Needlework, Photography, Scrapbooking, Small Pets, Small Engines, and Woodworking.

4-H Camp continues to impact the total 4-H program involving 234 campers ages 9-13 years old, teen leaders, and adult leaders and volunteers. During a five day camping trip to Lake Cumberland, these young people learn a host of skills such as boating, swimming, crafts, caring for natural resources, communications, and interpersonal relationships.

Nelson County 4-H is proud to be part of the continued development of today's youth and tomorrow's adults.

Robbie Smith Horticulture

Many sponsored programs found success in the past year. The Nelson County Extension Horticulture program continues to grow due the diligent efforts of the many volunteers. Their support and tireless commitment to the programs cannot be commended enough.

One of the marquis programs of Extension Horticulture is the Extension Master Gardeners. Nelson County has trained more than 50 Master Gardeners over the past years and have recently added another 25 gardeners to the list. Master Gardeners, after an extensive training, take up the mission of Extension by helping teach, by organizing community projects, and by helping to disseminate good research based information to the public. Extension Master Gardeners give back to the program by volunteering more than 7500 hours annually.



The Blooming Bardstown Garden tour, coordinated and sponsored by the Extension Master Gardeners, just celebrated its fifth year. More than 200 individuals enjoyed the ten gardens and

the newly expanded plant inspired sales area called Master G's. This area at the Bardstown Farmers' Market sold gardener donated plants, provided skin cancer screenings, and educational components that featured Bernheims Naturalist and Master Gardener Randy Dixon speaking on honey production. Master G's was a coordinated effort between the Bardstown Farmers Market association and the Extension Master Gardeners to extend the gardening knowledge of Nelson County and to bring further community exposure to both groups.

The Master Gardeners didn't stop there they also were responsible for planning, building and installing an enabled garden at one of the local nursing homes. They built raised beds that welcomed those individuals in wheel chairs to garden in a comfortable manner. This project helped the residents become more active outdoors and provide them a project of which to be proud. The

garden season culminated in the participants having a harvest festival and eating the fruits of their labor.

Other Master Gardener projects included: Downtown Bardstown Beautification projects, School programs, KY Wine Fest assistance etc.

The Bardstown Farmers Market enjoyed another successful year. This year 22 vendors participated and enjoyed increased sales.

A very good and creative board provided excellent leadership throughout the season. They focused on



exposure generation and increased sales. Every weekend had a different customer focus and helped increase revenue. They coordinated and implemented a two day market festival that featured cooking and crafting demonstrations, live music, and information sharing sessions.

The KY Wine Fest was a complete success for the second year. The mission was to increase the exposure and community awareness for the young wine and grape growing industry in Kentucky. During June more than a thousand people attended three events in Bardstown on consecutive days to enjoy and learn about Kentucky wines. Four events were organized to showcase Kentucky Wines: KY Wine Fest Competition, KY Wine Fest and Theater, KY Wine Fest Wine Hop, and The Bardstown Rotary Wine Tasting.

Three cooperating farmers featured University of Kentucky field crop demonstration plots. One grower grew vegetables in a new way with the help of the University Vegetable Associate, another began the season earlier with a season extending high tunnel greenhouse, and yet another trialed romaine lettuce for the commercial industry standards testing.



Combined Programming Efforts

Nelson County Extension Council Member Adam Wheatley, Agriculture Agent Ron Bowman, and Horticulture Agent Robbie Smith hosted the Nelson County Young Leaders Program annual Agriculture day. The twenty plus high school sophomores enjoy a day on several farms in Nelson County. Local Agriculture Leaders discuss many different issues with the students regarding farming in the county. The students receive first hand knowledge of the cost associated with operating a farm through an equipment scavenger hunt.



This year students visited a grain and replacement dairy heifer operation, a replacement dairy operation with an alternative feeding operation, an aquaculture/vegetable production operation, and a full service beef cattle operation.



The Annual Nelson County Fair provides an opportunity for individuals to practice and display their skills. Individuals from all across the county entered open class exhibits in beef, sheep, horticulture, flowers, antiques, art, clothing, culinary foods, food preservation, hobbies & ceramics, quilts & afghans, and textiles & needlework. The county fair also provides the opportunity for youth to display their exhibits in arts, craft, sport fishing,

The Nelson County Cooperative Extension Service

We deliver information, education, solutions.

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horse, horticulture, electric, woodwork, curing ham, beef, swine, goat, sheep, tobacco, field crops, entomology, forestry, geology, photography, sewing, needlework, foods, home environment, consumer & financial education, leadership, and the county dog show.



Ron Bowman, Agriculture/Natural Resources
Robbie Smith, Horticulture
Brandi Cope, Family Consumer & Science
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