

# EXTENSION *Today*



## 4-H

Adam P. Haggard  
Nelson County Extension Agent for 4-H Youth Development

Nelson County's youth are a diverse and valuable resource. Tomorrow's work force are today's youth. As our children grow, 4-H provides opportunities to develop basic life skills they need to succeed as adults through a hands on approach of learning by doing. Over 1,500 Nelson County youth are involved throughout the year in organized clubs in communities and schools, camps, leadership and community projects, school curriculum enrichment programs, or individual self-study projects at home.

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 Club, Horse Club, Livestock Club, Shooting Sports Club, Teen Council, Sewing Club, and the Goat & Sheep 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, UNICEF, United Way, Red Cross, and Soldier Hero Packs.

Nelson County 4-H has the largest Shooting Sports Program and club in Kentucky with over 85 4-H members and more than 100 parents, certified leaders and volunteers who participate in Local, Area, District and State events. Disciplines included are: Archery, Black Powder, Trap, 22 Rifle & Pistol, Air Rifle & Pistol, and BB. Several counties and states have consulted this club for advice and ideas before starting their clubs.

The January to June Clubs were a continued success in their second 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 the Nelson County & Kentucky State Fairs. January to June Clubs include: Cooking, Electric, Entomology, Forestry, Geology, Market to Market Ham Club, Needlework, Photography, and Woodworking.

4-H Camp continues to impact the total 4-H program involving 300 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.



4-H school involvement continues to grow in Nelson County. 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: Environmental Camps, Reality Store, Future Financial Planning, Outdoor Classroom, Johnny Goes to Nutrition Land, Chick Incubation and Native American Culture.

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

## COMBINED EFFORTS

### Land Use Planning

In a recent survey of Nelson County farmers 98% of respondents indicated they were very concerned about urban encroachment and how it would affect their ability to farm and retire from farming in the future. As a result of the response to the survey the Horticulture and Agriculture/Natural Resource Agents planned and held a Conservation Subdivision Design Workshop in January. Conservation subdivisions allow for housing to be put on smaller parcels while saving valuable farmland. These designs allow producers to realize extra income from their development potential without destroying the whole farm and its capabilities.

101 producers, real estate agents and developers attended. Mr. Randall Arendt a nationally recognized authority on Land Use Issues presented a 5 hour symposium and workshop that had the stakeholders working together in small groups and actually design subdivisions from actual farm plats. 87% of participants reported an increase in knowledge of the presented material. Since the workshop 2 new subdivision applications have been received by Planning and Zoning utilizing Conservation Subdivision plans. The workshop was sponsored by a collaborative effort of the Nelson County Planning and Zoning Commission, the Nelson County Soil conservation District and the Nelson County Extension Office.



## FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE

Carolyn R. Goodman

Nelson County Extension Agent for Family & Consumer Science

### Microwave Cooking: More Than Defrost & Reheat

Four microwave cooking schools were conducted reaching 75 adults & youth. The main cooking school objective, as reflected in the name was to encourage & challenge individuals to utilize the microwave oven for actual cooking. Twelve different recipes were prepared & participants sampled the foods. Recipe booklets were distributed and much discussion occurred.

### Etiquette & Youth

An Etiquette luncheon was presented in both Nelson & Washington Counties as part of their APES agenda. The 62 high school youth were actively involved with this program as they practiced what was being taught during the actual sit down luncheon. Many of the youth were a bit reluctant at the beginning but became totally involved & began to ask specific etiquette type questions. Students were requested to wear dress-up attire for this activity.



### Nelson County Homemakers (KEHA)

Nelson County Homemakers prepare & provide food for Relay for Life Survivor Food booth each year.



Lincoln Trail Area Homemakers sponsored a Home Expo Seminar with over 225 attending. Various sessions were offered relating to home environment. Numerous UK Specialist and resource business people were involved.

"Parade of Hats" was the Nelson County Homemaker Annual Meeting theme. A hat style show was presented by each club. A theme basket auction raised \$1,000 for KEHA Ovarian Cancer research. The Annual \$500 scholarship was awarded.

### Antique Class Series

Dr. Ron Wells, noted antique authority from Versailles conducted a series of 8 week lectures on various topics dealing with antiques. Over 50 persons were enrolled representing 5 counties.

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## AGRICULTURE

Ron Bowman

Nelson County Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources

Agriculture remains an important economic force in Nelson County. Total cash receipts from agriculture products were \$39.7 million in 2005. Two thirds of these receipts were from livestock sales and one third from crops sales. But, farm income is down 20 percent (\$10.5 million) from what it was 10 years ago. In the last 20 years Nelson County has lost 25,000 acres and 237 farms to development. While agriculture is important, we are losing ground quickly to real estate and industrial development.

Traditional educational programs were held for grain and tobacco 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:

### Central Kentucky Premier Heifer Sale

Nelson, Washington and Marion County Beef Cattle Producers are networking to hold the Central Kentucky Premier Heifer Sale. Two sales are held each year. A sale is held in October for spring calving heifers and in June for fall calving heifers. There were 3 producers with 270 heifers involved from Nelson County. The sales averaged \$1,235.00 and \$1,185.00 respectively. According to records kept by one of the producers he made \$375.00 per heifer in the sales. That would indicate better than \$100,000.00 of value added to these 3 producers income.



### Phase I Tobacco Programs

- Cattle Genetics Program - \$40,000 available for the purchase of genetically superior bulls.
- Cattle Handling Facilities - \$65,000 available to upgrade working facilities for beef and dairy producers. This allows producers to keep animals healthier with less stress on the animal and safer to the producers.
- Goat Diversification - \$10,000 available to start new and enhance existing meat goat herds.
- Hay & Straw Storage - \$85,000 available for producers to provide better storage for round baled hay.
- Farmers Market Pavilion - \$68,000 to build a Farmers Market Pavilion on the vacant lot adjacent to the extension office.
- Swine Diversification - \$10,000.00 available for producers to renovate current facilities or start new operations.
- Horticulture Diversification - \$10,000.00 available for producer's to expand or start new horticulture enterprises.

## HORTICULTURE

Robbie Smith

Nelson County Extension Agent for Horticulture

### Blooming Bardstown Garden Tour



The reviews are in the Blooming Bardstown Garden tour will be a spring tradition in Nelson County for a long time to come.

Through the collaboration of the Nazareth Arts, The Kentucky Standard, and The Kentucky Home Master Gardeners, the Second annual Blooming Bardstown Garden tour went off as a grand success. The garden tour featured 10 separate gardens ranging from cutting gardens and shade gardens to vegetable gardens and water gardens. More than 225 tickets were sold for the tour bringing in approximately \$2200 to the two organizations. The economic impact for Nelson County will exceed more than \$100,000.

### Farmers Market Pavilion

The Nelson County Horticulture Advisory Board (NCHAB) was formed as a tool for me to gauge what the community desired in programming. That is still their primary function but the group has evolved over the years into something much more. As a follow up to the Ag Diversification program the group desired another project that they could work on together. Currently the NCHAB is focusing their efforts of the construction of a Farmers Market Pavilion. Through the diligent work of the NCHAB and its many partners the Farmers Market Pavilion opened on June 30<sup>th</sup> for business. The Pavilion features restrooms, open air meeting space, and ample vendor space. The facility resembles the structure that once stood on the site at the turn of the century. That building also served the agriculture community.



### The Kentucky Home Master Gardeners

The Kentucky Master Gardener Program is a leadership rearing organization designed to foster a spirit of community involvement through horticulture projects and endeavors. The program consists of 16 classes of intense training in various areas of interest to a horticulturist. After the classroom training is complete a minimum of 40 hours of volunteerism is required to be given back to the community through extension related programming. Completion of both legs of the program is required to become a Master Gardener.

Upon completion of the course work the Kentucky Home Master Gardeners Association was formed. There are 27 active members in the organization. Projects that were accomplished by this group include the installation of an herb garden for My Old Kentucky Home, grounds beautification at the Abbey of Gethsemane, landscape maintenance at the Kentucky Railroad Museum, and many other personal accomplishments.



### Fruit and Vegetable Field Day

Over fifty individuals participated in the 6th annual Fruit and Vegetable Field Day. Dr. John Strang and Maurice Fegenbush provided instruction to the participants on a wide range of topics.

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## COMBINED EFFORTS

### The American Private Enterprise Program

The American Private Enterprise System Program is an excellent example of how students learn outside the classroom. Thirty-seven high school juniors and seniors represented all three local high schools in the two-day event. The diverse group of students participated in educational sessions, testing competitions, a tour, discussions with community leaders, team building activities, and etiquette luncheon provided by Carolyn Goodman. Through collaboration with a diverse group of community leaders six different topics of economic subject matter were taught and discussed with the participants. Following each discussion of a topic a quiz was given and at the end of the two-day event a test was given. The top cumulative score declared the winners and therefore, declared the Nelson County participants in the Kentucky Youth Seminar competition held in Lexington. This year with the help of the local Farm Bureau office we were able to provide a \$500 scholarship to the top performing student that participates in the state meeting.





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**Nelson County  
Farmers Market**

Sponsored by:

- Nelson County Extension District Board
- Nelson County Horticulture Advisory Board
- City of Bardstown
- Nelson County Soil Conservation District
- Bardstown/Nelson County Tourism Commission



**The Nelson County Cooperative Extension Office**

We Deliver: **Education, Information, Solutions**

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