

# UK COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

University of Kentucky – College of Agriculture

## REPORT TO THE PEOPLE 2002-2003

### NELSON COUNTY

#### AGRICULTURE

Ron Bowman

County Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources

Agriculture remains an important economic force in Nelson County. Total cash receipts from agriculture products were \$31.3 million in 2002. Two thirds of these receipts were from livestock sales and one third from crops sales. But, farm income is down 25 percent (\$10 million) from what it was 5 years ago. In the last 20 years since 1982 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:

#### Master Cattleman

An intensive Integrated Resource Management program involving all aspects of beef production 10 educational sessions are held. Twelve Nelson County Producers graduated and 8 more are attending in 2003.



#### Phase I Tobacco Programs

- Beef Genetics Program - \$40,000 available for the purchase genetically superior bulls.
- Cattle Handling Facilities - \$80,000 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. One hundred forty Producers Beef Quality Assurance Certified.

- Forage Improvement Program - \$100,000 available to improve pasture and hay fields by planting better varieties and providing proper fertilization.
- Goat Diversification - \$25,000 available to start new and enhance existing meat goat herds.

#### 4-H

Mike Caldwell

County Extension Agent for 4-H Youth Development

Nelson County is unique with its diverse population and topography. The county consist of three major highways, one interstate, and two river systems that impact transportation and natural resources in the county. The county is also rich in farm land which improves the quality of Livestock projects.

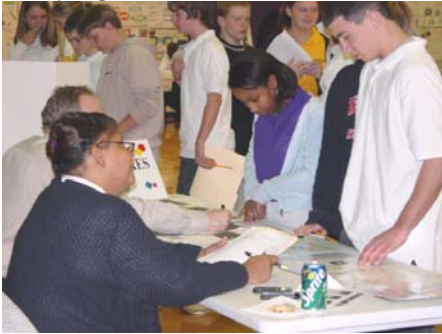
Nelson County consist of 3 school systems: Nelson County, Bardstown, Private schools, and Home School. The three systems contain three high schools, 4 middle schools and 12 elementary schools, and one vocational school. All three school systems are very supportive of 4-H.

Four-H in Nelson County is proud to have the County Ham Curing Project for its fourth year in the county program. Youth involved in the Market to Market Swine Club cures two hams each and they make a speech presentation and exhibit at their homes, the county and state fair.

Judy Creech, 4-H Program Assistant carries out a major part of the 4-H program which consist of 4-H Camp, school enrichment, and special interest 4-H projects.

Nelson County 4-H involves over 2,901 young people in its program throughout the year.

Four-H project clubs are: Sport Fishing, Dog Club, Outriders Horse Club, Beef Club, Shooting Sports Club, Market to Market, Teen Council, and Small Animal Pet. These clubs have a specific interest according to their missions, mainly to improve their skills and knowledge of their club program.



Four-H Camp impact the total 4-H program involving 410 campers ages 9-13 years old, teen leaders, and adult leaders. These young people learn a host of skills such as boating, swimming, crafts, caring for natural resources, communications, and interpersonal relationships.

Special Interest projects: Environmental Camps, Outdoor Classroom, Johnny Goes to Nutrition Land, and Native American Culture.

Nelson County is Proud of its new club, Small Animals & Pets. This club included cats, Guinea Pig, Gerbil, rabbits, birds and other caged animals. These animals were exhibited at club meetings and the Nelson County Fair.

## HORTICULTURE

Robbie Smith

County Extension Agent for Horticulture

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. Thus far in the short history of the Kentucky Home Master Gardeners we have been involved in twenty different local projects, with 14 different organizations, and all the while contributing a running total of around 350 volunteer hours.



One hundred and sixty home gardeners attended 8 workshops relating to horticulture in various ways. Topics included lawn care, fruit and vegetable production, spring bulb gardening, landscaping with stone, nature photography, plant health care, and attracting wildlife.

Nine Central Kentucky farm families received formal training. The 10 week course created by Nebraska Extension Service known as N<sub>x</sub>Level™, "Tilling the Soil of Opportunity" a guide to Agriculture entrepreneurs was hosted by St. Catherine College and facilitated by the Kentucky Small Business Development Center. The course work included everything from resource management, legal issues, marketing, budgets and cultivating money resources. The ultimate outcome of the classes was the development of 9 business plans that would be used to guide their individual businesses.

To date the Nelson County Horticulture Advisory board has received applications from 13 farm families requesting 40,000 dollars of the funds. Projects such as infrastructure improvement, new business startups, and operation expansions were funded in this program year.

## Family and Consumer Science

Carolyn R. Goodman

County Extension Agent for  
Family & Consumer Science

Healthy Snacks & Proper Hand washing  
Over 100 preschoolers and parents participated in hands-on program on choosing healthy snacks. Thirty-two preschoolers participate in Glowgerm/Hand washing learning activity. Twenty adults from Communicare Day Treatment program were involved in proper hand washing activity. These adults also participate in healthy snack lesson. Ninety-four St. Gregory Students (grades 1-3) participated in the Health and Safety Fair. These students learned about the importance of good hygiene through proper hand

washing techniques. A story as well Glowgerm lotion and Black Light were used to reinforce the learning.

### Etiquette & Youth

Two Etiquette Luncheons were planned for youth participating in APES Program for both Nelson and Washington Counties. The Nelson County FCS Agent served as the speaker for the sit-down meal function. The 65 participants were actively involved as the group practiced what was being taught during the meal time. Many of the youth were a bit reluctant at the beginning of the activity but became more comfortable and began to ask specific etiquette-type questions. The students were requested to wear dress-up clothing to reinforce the learning activity.

Twenty-five youth from the Home School 4-H Club were involved in a "Mind Your Manners" program. The youth demonstrated setting a table and then enjoyed snacks as they implemented the newly learned table manners.

### Native American Gathering



Nelson County's Native American Gathering Project received KEHA 1<sup>st</sup> place in the International Award. Nelson County Homemakers collected over 500 new baby clothing items for this project to benefit Native American children in Montana. Eighty-six people attended this educational activity.

### Antique Classes

90 Adults from 6 counties attended a series of 8 classes/lectures on Antiques and Collectables. Many of these participants were first time Extension Service participants.

### Combined Programming

The American Private Enterprise Seminar program was another successful event that had input from all four programming areas. The event was coordinated by 4-H, Horticulture, and Salt River RECC and included logistical assistance from the Agriculture Agent and a

lesson on manners and etiquette from the Family and Consumer Sciences Agent.

Nearly forty high school juniors from all three high schools competed for trips, money, and scholarships if they won on the state level. The seminar included a tour of American Fuji Seal, and six local speakers lectured to them on the topic of business.



Nelson County was represented very well in the state competition. Four students competed against 200 other students for 8 trips to the national event and Nelson County students were good enough to receive two of those positions.

As the "baby boomer" population ages, survivors find that they are ill-equipped to deal with financial matters at a time when emotional resources are at a low. Therefore, an "Estate Planning Workshop" was organized and implemented by the FCS, Horticulture and Agriculture agents to help families prepare for the possibility of the death of a spouse, parent, partner, or other family member. Participants were recruited by the agents from all 3 program areas.

A total of 29 individuals participated in the workshop held during January of 2003. An Estate Planning and Tax Lawyer was procured for the Workshop. She provided participants with an update on State and Federal taxes and spent an extensive amount of time on Living Trusts.

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