

EXTENSION Today

IN SCOTT COUNTY

In Scott 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 Scott 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.

THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE

The recent economic downturn has had an effect on Scott County families just as it has all across the nation. Conceived to meet the needs of rural families in the early 1900s, the Cooperative Extension Service has expanded its mission to assist families, both rural and urban, all across the United States.

In Scott County, the following programs are designed to enhance the economic status of all families: Community Gardeners, Extension Homemakers, Expanded Food and Nutrition Program, health screenings, cattle marketing assistance, financial planning, 4-H instruction in practical living, and youth programs such as the Reality Store.

For many, these present times are a back-to-the-basics focus on family living and whether you live on a farm, in the suburbs, or downtown Georgetown, the Scott County Cooperative Extension Service has programs designed to fit your lifestyle needs.

Helping to meet the challenge of change has been the focus of the Scott County Cooperative Extension Service for many years and it will continue to be the focus in years to come.

Extension Council:

Pres.: Stephen Smith V. P.: Charman Middleton
Sec. : Katrina Whitley

Extension District Board:

Emma Jean Routt, Chairman Ted Holland
Alvin Lyons, Vice Chairman Cecil Bell, Jr.
James Stone, Secretary Roger Quarles
George Lusby, Judge/Executive

Reaching Out to Scott County



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|---------------------------------|--------|
| <i>Educational Programs</i> | |
| Programs presented | 579 |
| Total participants | 7,045 |
| <i>Educational Contacts</i> | |
| Clientele visits | 29,640 |
| Telephone consultations | 26,547 |
| Newsletters distributed | 18,280 |
| <i>Volunteer Development</i> | |
| Volunteers | 848 |
| Volunteer hours | 13,406 |
| Clientele reached by volunteers | 16,852 |



ECONOMIC SQUEEZE FOR FARMERS

The lingering drought that Kentucky has experienced for the past three years continues to plague Scott County farm families. The battle with increased fuel prices, skyrocketing fertilizer and feed costs, and a cattle market downturn have made this growing season an exceptionally demanding one.

Through K.A.R.E. (Kentucky Agricultural Relief Effort) the Scott County Agricultural Development Board has strived to ease some of the effects of last year's drought and through use of Phase I tobacco money has expanded efforts to assist local farmers in various phases of their operation. Approximately \$500,000.00 has been allocated to these efforts in 2008.

Agri-tourism continues to be a big draw in Scott County. On-farm tourism activities are open year-round. Fall festivals continue to draw thousands of visitors and visits to the farm by school children continue to offer many educational opportunities.



On-farm school tours are a big part of the agri-tourism focus in Scott County. Kevan Evans of Evans Orchard discusses apple production and processing with a group of interested young people.

One bright spot in the local farm economy has been the success of Central Kentucky Growers. Part of a statewide effort to expand vegetable marketing with cooperatives in Kentucky, the CKGA is the only cooperative left in operation and has enjoyed one of its most successful growing and sales season this year with an income of over \$1.5 million dollars. The strategic location of the co-op and increased fuel costs have increased demand for local products.

The Scott County Beef Improvement Association has established quarterly meetings for local beef producers to assist them in the production, feeding, and marketing of their cattle operations. The first session this fall featured an emphasis on market outlook and economical grazing systems. Replacement heifers were again shipped to Joplin, Missouri and commanded the top price average for all replacement heifer sales across the state.

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS OF 4-H YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Scott County 4-H offers monthly school enrichment lessons based on the Kentucky Department of Education Core Content and Program of Studies Guidelines to every 4th and 5th grade class (public, private) in the county. By working with classroom teachers and providing quality, subject-relevant lessons to their classes, the Scott County 4-H School program has become an important part of our 4th and 5th grade elementary school programs. For the 2007-08 school year, 984 elementary students received instruction resulting in 306 hours of instruction in subjects pertaining to practical living, health, nutrition, physical, earth/space and life sciences.



Western Elementary students enjoy learning about the lifecycle of a frog at environmental camp with agent for 4H Youth Development, Sharon Flynt.



Fishing Leader Lanny Haynes teaches 4-H'ers the fine art of fly tying.

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

Scott County's Extension Homemaker Association continues to serve many families. In the 2007-08 program year there were 645 members and 25 clubs. Topics of discussion ranged from health and nutrition to money and time management. Limited resource households also received the nutrition, physical activity and health message through the Cooperative Extension Service Expanded Food and Nutrition Program. During the past year 91 individuals have successfully completed that program. Ninety percent of them demonstrate a positive change in diet and 50% show improvements in food safety, food preparation and resource management.



Anita Woods manages to smile as she gets blood drawn for the National Kidney Foundation health screening program. Volunteer phlebotomists from Georgetown Community Hospital were on hand for the day-long event. Eighty-nine at-risk Scott Countians were screened for kidney disease. The program is called Kidney Early Evaluation Program or "KEEP" and was sponsored locally by Cooperative Extension, Senior Citizens, Health Department and Family Resource Centers. The screenings are free to at-risk individuals.

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE

In 2005, the KY Environmental Education Council and the University of KY Survey Research Center released findings by the Kentuckians' Environmental Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviors Survey, which stated that 88% of those surveyed felt the state should invest more in an effort in environmental education. Ninety-seven percent agreed that environmental education should be taught in the schools. To address these requests, agents, volunteers, teachers and trained interns lead students, parents and teachers through a series of outdoor hands-on lessons in conservation, water quality, pond studies, wildlife, forestry, and other natural resources conservation topics through the overnight environmental camping program offered to the schools through Scott County 4-H Youth Development Program. Through these activities, students, parents and teachers gained new knowledge of our

environment and discovered problem solving solutions and practices that they can integrate into their daily living.

Of those 341 attending, 99% of campers (parents, students and teachers) surveyed stated they felt environmental camp was a worthwhile experience. Another 99% stated that they had received information and/or skills that they would be able to use in their daily lives and share with family members. Ninety-three percent of campers stated that they felt they would spend more time outdoors now in light of what they had observed and participated in at environmental camp. One hundred percent of teachers surveyed said they considered the environmental camping program an important part of their school curriculum and helpful in increasing testing scores.

GET MOVING SCOTT COUNTY

The summer of 2008 was filled with much planning for October 12, the "Second Sunday" event. Scott County Cooperative Extension joined with 70 other counties in organizing a statewide event to celebrate the value of physical activity and to bring attention to the need for communities to include trails, parks, playgrounds and programs that promote physical activity. We had 145 participants who came out to enjoy the Elkhorn Creek Walking Trail created by the Scott County Fiscal Court. Statewide there were over 10,000 participants. The Scott County event had the support of Scott County Fiscal Court, Georgetown City Council and the Scott County School system. Events such as this demonstrate the viability of the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service in mobilizing valuable statewide programs.



Judy Giannasio, County Judge-Executive George Lusby and Mayor Karen Tingle-Sames prepare for the Cooperative Extension Second Sunday trail walk. There were 145 participants for the celebration of the value of physical activity.

The benefits of physical activity continue to be addressed with the Cooperative Extension Get Moving Kentucky Program. Fall and spring sessions were conducted with a combined enrollment of 55. Participants reported completing 3,867 physical activity miles over the eight-week period. One hundred percent of the participants indicated that as a result of the program they had increased their physical activity and were experiencing increased levels of energy and reduced stress. There was some weight loss, lowered blood pressures and lowered blood sugar levels.

Other Cooperative Extension health education opportunities included collaboration with the Kentucky Chapter of the National Kidney Foundation to provide kidney functions screenings to Scott Countians at the Extension Center on April 15, 2008 and a 4-session “We Can” program for parents and students at Stamping Ground Elementary. “We Can” stands for “ways to enhance children’s activity and nutrition”. Enrollment in the program included 20 adults and 30 children. Co-sponsors in addition to Cooperative Extension were the Scott County Public School Family Resource Centers and the Public Health Department.

PDR PROGRAM NOW FUNCTIONAL IN SCOTT COUNTY

Becoming the second county in the state of Kentucky to offer a Purchase of Development Rights Program is a huge step for Scott County. Recognizing the need to preserve valuable farmland for future generations, a coalition of local agencies, government bodies and dedicated individuals this is an important first step in the sustainability of agriculture in our county and in our region.

Reaching back to the Vision 2020 Program which began over nine years ago this part of the solution is now a reality. The Scott County Cooperative Extension Service and agriculture bodies with which it collaborates will play a vital role in the future success of this program.



Connie and 4-H’ers get a “front row seat” at the pre Horse Festival parade called the “Colt and Filly Review”. Cooperative Extension work does have its rewards.



The Scott County Cooperative Extension Service sponsored a sewing camp on July 7 and 8. Participants and teachers are pictured from left to right beginning with the back row: Karen Parker, Elissa Frost, Marjorie Baker, Samantha Clanney, Lauren Clanney, Schekinah Harris, Stacy Frost, Emily Keith, Jennifer Carlino and Heather Gogel. Students made machine quilted wall hangings. The camp is a summer opportunity to polish sewing skills for students enrolled in the 4-H Sewing program.

The Scott County Cooperative Extension Service

We deliver information, education, solutions.

For more information, contact us at:

1130 Cincinnati Road
Georgetown, KY 40324-8931
(502) 863-0984
Fax: (502) 863-2392

www.ca.uky.edu

Sharon Flynt – 4H Youth Development
Connie Minch – Family & Consumer Sciences
Mark Reese – Agriculture & Natural Resources
Alison Johnson – 4H Program Assistant
Secretaries: Patty Case, Karen Bailey & Carrie Bryant