

Henry County 2024

REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

JUST A FEW OF OUR PROGRAMS

- 4-H Reality Store
- Youth Ag Day
- Ration Building
- Master Cattleman
- Cooking with Cast Iron
- Cook Wild

Did You Know...

8.5% of Henry County residents are veterans (1,041): 20 WWII- 46 Korean War- 499 Vietnam War- 184 1st Gulf War- 117 2nd Gulf War

Priority Program Efforts

- 394 youth demonstrated a skill that was learned or improved by participating in 4-H agriculture programming
- 750 youth participated in overnight, 4-H summer camp(s)
- KEHA members volunteered a total of 83 hours for Extension Activities and events
- 275 individuals received Cook Wild recipes
- 32 individuals gained information on small ruminant operations
- 320 individuals gained information on beef nutrition, animal health, genetics, reproduction, and/or facilities and equipment

For More Information, Please Contact us at:
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In Henry 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 Henry County Cooperative Extension Office is your connection to the University of Kentucky and the world.

"There are two spiritual dangers in not owning a farm. One is the danger of supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery, and the other that heat comes from the furnace."

-Aldo Leopold on the importance of Agriculture.-



Youth Ag Day

To allow elementary aged youth to learn more about the agricultural products that are produced in Henry County and to have a hands-on experience it was decided to have a Youth Ag Day for all of the 4th graders in the county. Approximately 250 youth attend the event that included 15 stations. Most of the stations are led by 4-H members, FFA officers, and extension volunteers and employees. The stations include: beef, sheep, horse, swine, poultry, rabbits, goats, horse, soybeans and corn, tobacco, forages, vegetables, soil conservation, and limits of the land.

For many students it was the first time that they had the opportunity to touch the animals on display. They had no idea that soybeans and corn were used in so many products other than food or that a tobacco seed is so small. The conservation demonstrations stations allowed them to understand the importance of soil and water and how to be better stewards to protect what we have.



Reality Store

Henry County and Eminence Independent students have experienced the Reality Store program for over 25 years. It offers youth a glimpse of adulthood in a fun and practical way. The exercise helps youth to understand some “realities” involved in preparing for their future. Each year there are approximately 300 youth that attend and 50 volunteers that work at the booths.

To begin with each participant pretends they are 25 years old and imagines what they would like their lives to look like. Then students are given their GPAs for the first 9 weeks and must choose an occupation based on their current grades. The youth make decisions on where they spend their salary in 19 booths manned by volunteers. The exercise shows them the many decisions they will face and, perhaps more importantly, how much those decisions cost.

Upon evaluation of the program participants have stated that this program changed their mind about their career paths after seeing how much income other salaries offered compared to their first choice.



4-H & Youth Development



Food Preservation

With the price of food increasing, families are raising larger gardens to preserve more food, while others are deciding they want to learn how to raise a garden to preserve food. Therefore, a food preservation workshop was conducted! The workshop consisted of two parts: a lecture and a hands-on. The lecture portion of the workshop shared the history of food preservation, the importance of using proper techniques, jars, tools, and equipment. The hands-on portion of the workshop allowed the participants to assist in making salsa and preparing green beans to be pressured canned.

Results from the evaluations showed that 90% of the participants had zero level of experience in canning before the program and after attending the program, 95% felt confident being able to preserve food using both methods of canning. Participants enjoyed the hands-on portion of the program the most and disliked the lecture portion of the program, but overall, the participants enjoyed the program, gained knowledge, and felt confident in preserving food themselves.

Second Wind Dreams

Second Wind Dreams was established in Henry County in 2006 with the guidance of the former Henry County FCS Extension Agent. This group evolved when local senior citizens residing in the assisted living and senior center were asking for wishes that could not be filled due to the lack of family, funding, and resources. After some discussions, Second Wind Dreams (SWD), a national nonprofit organization dedicated to changing the perception of aging through the fulfillment of dreams was found and the SWD Henry County group evolved.

The SWD Henry County have received their non-profit status and are making wishes come true; they will be celebrating their 1000th dream come this Spring. Since 2006, the group has taken in over \$60,000.00 in donations and grants and have paid out over \$48,000.00 in dreams. The most exciting dream to date for SWD was renovating a space in the Twin Oaks Assisted Living for residents to enjoy. This space includes a small library, piano, chairs, and kids area!



Fencing Field Day

Henry County's primary agricultural commodity is cattle, generating over \$10,991,000 in sales as per the 2017 Census of Agriculture. As a new agent, much of my focus lies on this industry, collaborating closely with the local Cattlemen's Association chapter. The Ag & Natural Resource Agent organizes and leads educational segments during their meetings, featuring specialists on various topics. Many farmers express a preference for hands-on learning, especially regarding fencing, a topic of significant interest among livestock owners in the county. With most fences reaching their 30-year lifespan and new farmers lacking necessary skills, the Ag & Natural Resources Agent coordinated a condensed version of the "fencing school" in partnership with a name brand fencing company. Choosing a nearby farm owned by young participants in NRCS cost-share projects, we showcased proper fence-building techniques, emphasizing safety with the new post-driver from the Henry County Conservation District. Seventy-seven attendees actively engaged in hands-on learning, prompting positive feedback, with five individuals reporting new insights and one making purchasing decisions based on the field day experience.



Ag & Natural Resources



Farm Tax Class

Agricultural economics is a topic of interest among Henry County farmers. Positive feedback from my Farm Record Keeping class encouraged the development of more advanced agriculture economics programming. Despite a change in date and location, 37 attendees participated in a class led by Jonathan Sheppard, a UK Business Management Specialist. Prior surveys revealed a basic understanding of farm taxes among participants, with specific interests in liabilities and farm income averaging.

Jonathan tailored his presentation to meet these expectations, garnering positive remarks upon conclusion. A follow-up survey yielded 18 responses, indicating a notable improvement in participants' comprehension of farm taxes. Six respondents reported minimal prior knowledge, while seven claimed a decent understanding beforehand. However, all respondents acknowledged enhanced understanding post-class, with 82% believing the newfound knowledge would yield financial benefits for their farms.

The success of the program underscores its relevance to farmers, reflecting positively on our efforts to address their needs in agricultural economics education.

NOTHING IS OUT OF REACH.



Healthy Families. Healthy Homes. Healthy Communities.



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...just a few ways Extension supports Kentucky

- 28,603 individuals became involved in an existing local disaster preparedness program
- 100,973 individuals gained knowledge of forage production, management and/or profitability which could include species, best management practices for species, forage harvest and storage, and pasture renovation
- 24,773 individuals collected soil samples for testing
- 20,639 individuals gained knowledge on establishing and maintaining pollinator habitats
- 1,150,821 individuals gained knowledge in consumer and home horticulture including native plants, disease and pests, composting, site analysis, and proper maintenance

Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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