

Report to the People Marshall County 2023-2024

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New Location

Since the establishment of the Marshall County Cooperative Extension Office, the programs offered have continuously expanded. The office started out small, on the second floor of the Marshall County Court House and is currently occupying it's fourth location. Due to the increasing amount of programs offered by the Marshall County Agents and the lack of meeting space, the office will be moving to a new location in Summer of 2024.

The new location will have almost triple the amount of space, allowing multiple programs to be offered simultaneously.



Laugh & Learn Playdates Engage Families in School Readiness Activities

According to Kentucky's 2023 Early Childhood Profile, children in Marshall County continue to need interventions so they are ready for kindergarten. Children who start kindergarten with delayed development are more likely to repeat grades and be tracked into lower-tier classes.

The Marshall County Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS) agent facilitates Laugh & Learn playdates at three local library branches that allow preschoolers and their families to participate in a variety of school readiness activities through play. Each month, the FCS agent demonstrates a variety of activities that can be recreated at home. Activities focus on fine and gross motor, literacy, math skills and good nutrition.



Photo by Vicki Wynn

Families from 37 households are represented at the monthly sessions. Parents report their children have also learned to work with other children and adults. Extension programs such as Laugh & Learn playdates aim to continuously improve and ensure all children have a strong start in school and in life.



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What Does 4-H Mean to Me?

A Marshall County 4-Her entered the 2023 Kentucky 4-H Written Communications Contest "What Does 4-H Mean to Me?" essay category. Excerpts from her essay are below:

In elementary school I saw 4-H as a fun after school club where I got to do different experiments and activities without the fear of failure... I've learned from being in 4-H. Sometimes you don't know your potential until you step up and try... I like 4-H (because) I don't have to worry about what people will say if I am myself. I'm hyper, I'm sensitive to noises and wear headphones sometimes... Everyone there just accepts me as me... no matter what mood I am in... I'm so glad I joined 4-H and am grateful for the opportunities the club gave me and will continue to give me...

This 4-Her is now a regular teen volunteer and attended 4-H Camp for the first time ever in Summer 2023 as a Teen Counselor. Marshall County 4-H means a lot to her as we Make the Best Better!



Marshall County 4-Her
at the 2023 State 4-H Shoot.
Photo by Lena Mallory

Cattleman Take to the Road



KY Farmers Visit U. of Illinois Research Farm
Photo by U. of Illinois staff

On Monday, August 22nd a group of west KY beef producers traveled to the University of Illinois's Agricultural Center in Dixon Springs, IL. The station operates on approximately 580 acres of university-owned property, and about 4,200 acres of "special use permit land" owned by the U.S. Forest Service. The Animal Sciences Department manages approximately 900 beef cows and their calves on this property. Research is conducted on cattle genetics and more specifically how genetics relate to feed efficiency, reproduction, and nutrition.

The participants toured the pastures, analyzed U of I's state of the art equipment, judged the cattle, learned about their fall calving cycle, warm season pastures and 15 acre paddock rotational grazing system. Afterwards the group enjoyed stopping by the Garden of the Gods Recreation Area, where they learned about the ancient rock formations, all while taking in the breathtaking views. When surveyed, every participant indicated learning something on the trip that they could use on their operations.