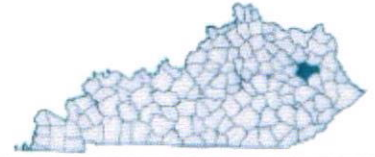




WELCOME TO

Morgan County Extension Service



Farmer's Appreciation & Safety Dinner 2023
with help from Morgan County 4-H & FFA Members, Licking Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Farm Bureau, Standafer Builders & Morgan County Soil Conservation District

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Cooperative Extension Service
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4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Youth Ag Day

Youth Ag Day had been discussed for several years between the 4-H agent and FFA advisor, and finally it became a reality. 4-H Teen Club members and FFA members joined together and planned out a Youth Ag Day for all 2nd/3rd graders in Morgan County. The event was hosted at the Morgan County Extension Office. FFA students and 4-H members worked on planning the stations and the educational opportunities for the youth. Teens were responsible for providing not only the materials but also the animals for the station.

The 4-H agent coordinated with the schools for the event and assisted with the set-up. The FFA advisors coordinated with the high school students in making sure they had all materials. The teens even came to the office the night before to go over the details of the event. There was a total of 50 teens serving as station leaders and as group leaders with the elementary students. Master Gardeners also provided hands on planting, dissecting of a seed and pollination. 4-H Agent from neighboring county shared the importance of bees with the students by bringing an observation window. We had beef, goat, pig, chickens/ducks, rabbits and horses for the youth to experience. We also had tractor safety and backyard games for the youth. The youth ag day accommodated over 250 2nd/3rd grade students.

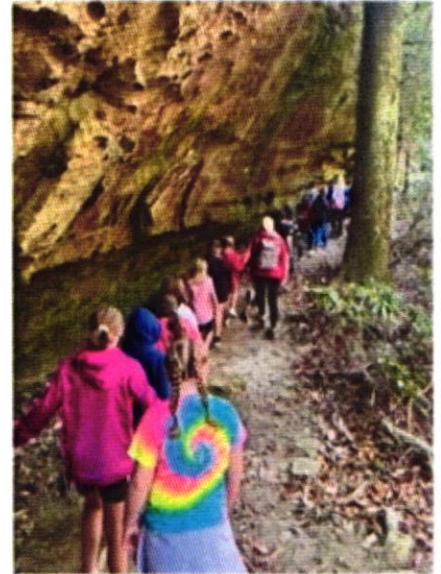
The high school students received great recognition from the superintendent for their hard work. This event took several volunteers and leaders.



4-H Environmental Day Camp



Morgan County 4-H Council has partnered with the Family Resource Center Directors, and four Elementary school staff for the past thirteen years to provide an educational environmental overnight camping program for all 4th graders in Morgan County. This partnership was developed to provide hands on applicable learning experiences for all 4th graders. However, Covid has altered this experience for Morgan County youth. After several planning meetings the decision to move forward, the overnight program has transitioned into an Environmental Day Camp for all 4th and 5th graders in the county. This was done at the same local youth camping facility we had used in the past. The Day Camp is based on environmental science and natural resources. 4-H Teen Club members provide group activities and either instruct a class or aid an instructor. When this program began, it was solely a 4-H Program and now it has become a school program with 4-H aiding. This year we conducted two-day camps just so we could have enough space for all the youth. The first one was 124 youth, 14 adults/teachers, and 36 teens. The second one was 129 youth, 12 adults/teachers, and 36 teens. This year campers had the experience of climbing the tower. Camp staff were impressed with the teen leadership of encouraging students with a new task. Also, this year we had a guest speaker for lunch from EKCC about their search and rescue canine division. From personal interviews: 1. Teachers cited their students needed this more than ever after a year of social distancing. 2. Teens gained public speaking skills, self-esteem, greater respect for the work of teachers, and applied leadership skills 3. 90% of the 4th and 5th graders cited learning ways that science applies to their surroundings and reasons for studying the environment 4. Teachers also stated that the unity of their class was so strong after attending the event. They were more team oriented than before. 5. 90% of the students experienced a first time while at the day camp, whether it be hiking in the forest, canoeing, touching an owl pellet, or studying animal tracks. Also, once the agent visited the 4th and 5th graders the following month during club meeting, students shared their desires of wanting to be a teen leader and to attend summer camp. Teachers also shared how impressed they were with the 4-H Teen's Leadership, involvement, and initiative to ensure all campers had a positive experience. Teachers have expressed how excited their students are to know they can become teen leaders when they get into high school!



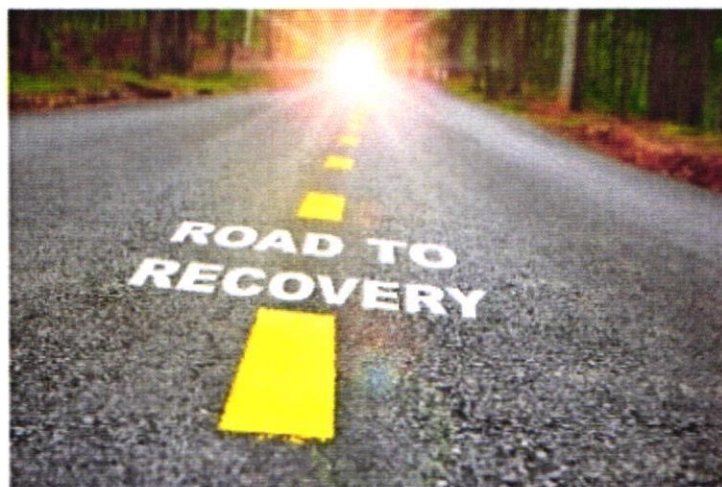
FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES ED.



OUR COMMUNITY SOLUTION: ADDRESSING ADDICTION

With rates of substance use and abuse at an all-time high, FCS collaborated with the director of a newly established recovery center. As a result, working with the director, staff, clients and SNAP assistant, programs were offered in food prep, food safety and selection, gardening and "Recovering Your Finances Training." Surveys indicated participants learned new skills in money management, success in learning what a credit score is, how to check it, how to establish credit, how to plan and create working budgets. A definite win win for all.

A community forum "Our Community Solution: Addressing Addiction" served as a building block to establish roads to recovery. Forty-Five participated in the event sharing with extension specialist and community partners to increasing awareness and understanding of addiction.



AG & NATURAL RESOURCES

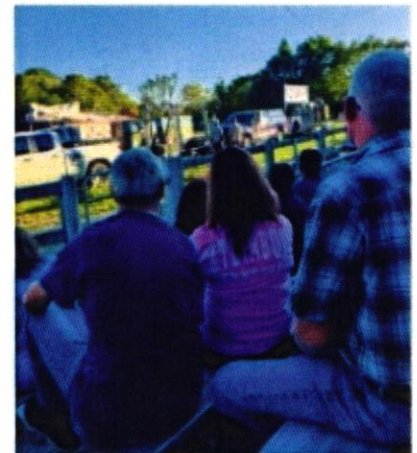
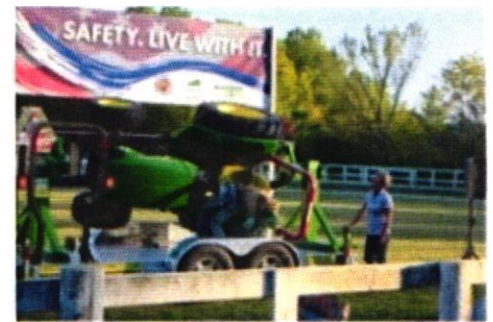


FARMER'S APPRECIATION & SAFETY DINNER

Farming is rated the sixth most dangerous occupation, beating out powerline workers and steelworkers (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)). There is also a high concentration of mental illness among farmers, including depression. These conditions are often stress-induced and can be life-threatening if left untreated.

Building on last year's success, Extension engaged additional community organizations for the USDA "Raising Hope – Supporting Healthy Lives on Kentucky Farms" campaign. These financial partners included Morgan County Soil Conservation District, Farm Bureau, Licking Valley Rural Electric Cooperative and Standafer Builders with 4-H and FFA Youth also contributing leadership and service skills.

The campaign consisted of thank you cards for farmers, a county proclamation signed by judge executive and "Farmer Appreciation" Dinner and Safety Awareness program. The event was attended by 161 farmers and family members.



FARMER'S APPRECIATION & SAFETY DINNER

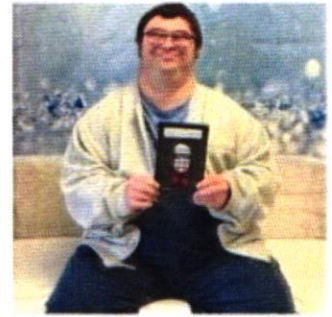
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In addition to a free dinner, there were safety demonstrations conducted by the Ky Dept of Agriculture and the local electric cooperative, as well as a presentation on mental health by the "Raising Hope" state director. The venue was beautifully decorated by Morgan County Master Gardeners. 4-H and FFA teens assisted with thank you cards, registration, meal serving and a presentation to open the meeting. The evening closed with photo opportunities and door prizes to send folks home with a smile after the discussion of difficult topics. 4-H and FFA teens had an opportunity to unite, work together and represent themselves as part of the ag community.

Comments on Facebook and to Extension Staff demonstrated that the farmers were very appreciative of the recognition. They also expressed how much they enjoyed and learned from the event. One person commented that seeing and hearing the youth involvement gave him new hope about the future of farming in Morgan County.





HOMEMADE HOLIDAY

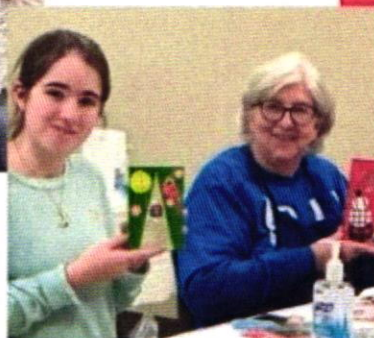
The Extension Office Offered "Homemade Holidays" November 14th in collaboration with Morgan County Homemakers, Morgan County Extension Staff and Extension Council.

This Event offered a day of craft classes and cooking demonstrations.

This was a free event at the Morgan County Extension Education Center. Folks were invited to drop in anytime between 2 pm and 7 pm to complete crafts of their choosing and sample various recipes.

Some of the stations that were offered include Santa Gnomes, Gift Bag Decorations, Ornament Trees, Canvas Creations, Painted Winter Tissue Jar Dispensers and Charcuterie Cups. There was Sweet Potato Chili, Christmas Popcorn and other dishes to sample.

There was estimated to be 80 people who enjoy this event. Some facebook comments include: "Great job ladies, it was fun and tasty" "It was so much fun" "Thank you so much. We had a great time" "We had a wonderful time!! Big thanks to everyone who worked to put this together." "It was awesome.. Thank you!!"



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