

# Extending Knowledge

## **CHANGING LIVES**

### *in Marion County*

Cooperative Extension provides practical education you can trust by helping individuals, families, businesses, and communities solve problems, develop skills, and build a better future.

### Program Efforts

Number of Youth (5-18)  
engaged in 4-H Summer  
Camping

**104**

Number of producers  
who Develop and implement a  
herd health protocol and improve  
animal health practices.

**100**

Number of people who gained  
information on small ruminant  
operations including animal  
health, nutrition, breeding/  
genetics, facilities and handling,  
environmental impact, and/or  
business management and  
marketing

**25**

### Progressive Agriculture Safety Day

Each spring, the Marion County Extension Office staff hosts the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day with the help from generous volunteers. Safety Day is an event where all fourth graders in Marion County spend the day learning about being safe in different situations. There are demonstrations and lessons from tractor safety, ATV safety, livestock safety, water safety, firearm safety, food safety and electrical safety.

Each fourth grade student learns tips on how to be mindful of potentially hazardous situations they could find themselves in. Volunteers take time to demonstrate and explain proper ways to approach different scenarios. Ag Safety Day is a huge program in Marion County that impacts the lives of both students and teachers. This event has taught students numerous ways to practice safety and apply it to their personal lives.

Most recently, Progressive Agriculture Safety Day impacted 200 Marion County fourth grade students.





# Central Kentucky Sheep and Goat Association Small Ruminant Field Day

The Marion County Sheep and Goat Association had not met at all since 2020. That changed in March of 2022 when I decided to get the group active again and build membership. Flash forward to September 16, 2023, we have held our very first field day in conjunction with the State Sheep and Goat office. I am very proud of how far this association has come and the changes we have made. This field day was requested by the Marion County Sheep and Goat members. The association saw the need for having a hands-on interactive day to learn more about a variety of topics which ranged from hoof care to forages.



The officers and field day planning committee along with Chelsea Sapp, Agriculture Agent and the Kentucky sheep and goat office planned to have this field day event to promote small ruminant production. The planning committee met and discussed topics they felt were important for both new and seasoned producers to know.

The first ever field day was a huge success. We had 66 participants in attendance. Some even came from other parts of the state. This program made an impact on 66 small ruminant producers. 61 White, 2 African American, 3 Hispanic. Several of the participants commented on how well they liked the topics at the sessions.



## **Mind Your Manners**

**A high school student ambassador group through the Marion County High School with 29 participants was held at the Marion County Cooperative Extension Office. The lesson was presented by the Family and Consumer Science (FCS) Agent, using activities from the 4H Etiquette and Manners Day Camp Curriculum. These activities were focused on table etiquette/mealtime manners and table setting.**

**Table manners play a vital role in making a favorable impression. Manners are crucial for students learn for multiple occasions, such as being polite and respectful of the feelings, culture, and values of others to avoid behavior that might be considered rude. Table manners will also help an individual feel comfortable at special occasions, such as family celebrations, award banquets, weddings, or when a potential employer invites an individual to lunch or dinner.**

**The first activity completed during this lesson was a video showing the students the “dos and don’ts” of dining etiquette, such as chewing with the mouth closed instead of open. This activity let the students brainstorm what may or may not be appropriate at dining events. The second activity completed was learning how to complete a table setting. The FCS Agent provided the dinnerware, and the students were asked to place the dinnerware where they thought was the correct placing. After 5 minutes, the FCS Agent showed the students the actual correct placing for the dinnerware.**

**After the students attended the etiquette lesson, the results from completing a pre and post evaluation from the 4H Table Setting and Table Manners True/False Quiz showed there was a drastic increase in table etiquette, and the results are:**

**-76% of students learned to wait until everyone is seated at your table before you start to eat.**

**-79% of students learned when using flatware, the order usually follows from the outside in. In other words, the flatware furthest from the plate is used first.**

**-72% of students learned to not pass food in opposite directions to try to serve everyone faster.**



## **A "Pig" Deal - Country Ham Project Takes Off**

**The 4-H Country Ham Project teaches youth about food production and Kentucky's rich history with country ham. Marion County is home to the Marion County Country Ham Days, so the project has a deeper connection with our kids and community.**

**The certified livestock leader came up with the idea to have a 4-H Country Ham Project Interest meeting to promote the project. The leader invited Dr. Gregg Rentfrow, UK Meats Specialist to give a presentation about what the project was about. 21 kids signed up to participate in the 2023 Country Ham Project. This was over an 80% increase in participation from the previous year.**

**Each year during the week of Ham Days, youth in the project can choose to enter their ham in the judging for the Champion Ham that will be sold on the main stage right before the Pigasus Parade. The 4-H members ham was auctioned off for a record \$3,100 as a collective bid between Marion County Cattleman's Association, Marion County Farm Bureau, Ag. Credit and the May and Parman Agency. These organizations donated the ham back to be auctioned again and the Earl Sandusky family was the winning bidder for an additional \$1100. Twelve youth have committed to auctioning off their hams in September of 2023. The proceeds will be split between the 4-H member and their family and the Marion County 4-H Livestock Club. Youth are encouraged to recruit bidders for their ham and are working on their "Ham Talk" to educate potential buyers about the ham curing process and are learning valuable communication skills.**

**Marion County 4-H member Anna Mattingly was the Overall Champion in her non-smoked ham age division at the 2022 State Fair. Jasmine Farmer was the 1st place winner for her ham in her non-smoked age division.**

