

Empowering Young Leaders

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

 University of
Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment



Extension Educates Youth in Agriculture at Schools and Through Special Interest Clubs

4-H Youth Development
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It starts with us



Harrison County Conservation District assists students with their farm management plan.

The Kentucky 4-H Agricultural Science Program engages 4-H members in a variety of hands-on activities and experiences that cultivate an increased understanding and appreciation for agriculture. Projects and activities are offered in the areas of animal and food science, and plant and soil science. During 2018:

- 17,898 youth reported demonstrating a skill that was learned and/or improved by participating in a 4-H agriculture and natural resources project, program, event or activity
- 4,149 youth reported that they can keep production, performance or financial records on their 4-H agriculture projects
- 30,002 youth reported that they understand the role of agriculture in the production of food and fiber
- 13,494 youth reported increased awareness of local farmer's markets and community gardens

A wide variety of county- and state-level 4-H agricultural programs are offered across the Commonwealth, including but not limited to livestock, horse, small animal, gardening clubs, country ham projects, agriculture field days, embryology in the classroom projects, and garden school enrichment programs.

Nine **Christian County** 4-H members participated in the Bucket Calf Project, a new program that connects youth with local cattle producers. Each

4-H'er partnered with a local producer to select an orphaned calf. Over the course of a 3-month period, each youth cared for their selected calf and prepared the calf to exhibit at the Western Kentucky State Fair. Of the nine youth that began the project, seven exhibited their selected animal at the fair. Over the course of the project, 4-H members and volunteers invested over 600 hours of time.

Harrison and Pendleton County 4-H Programs collaborated with local agricultural agencies and businesses to host the Ag Reality Series, a week-long program geared towards high-school juniors and seniors. Throughout the week, youth interacted with agricultural professionals and engaged in hands-on exercises to learn about farm management. By the end of the program, youth selected and managed a farming operation, kept financial records, and participated in a vendor fair and live auction.

In **Breckinridge County**, the Extension council partnered with community leaders and schools to host a youth agriculture expo day titled "Grow It, Eat It, Wear It". More than 500 hours went in to the planning and implementation of the program. Over 250 sixth graders took part in ten hands-on learning stations to learn about animal sciences, plant sciences, land management, soil conservation, and careers in agriculture. Survey results showed that 97% of youth participants had a better understanding of how food gets from the field to their plate after participating in the expo.

The 4-H Agricultural Science Program provides youth the opportunity to learn by doing. Whether caring for an orphaned calf or participating in the Ag Reality Series, 4-H members are actively engaged in learning about Kentucky's agriculture industry.

Each year in Kentucky, agriculture contributes roughly \$45.6 billion to our economy. 4-H prepares youth to be consumers, producers, and entrepreneurs of Kentucky agricultural products.