

# Cooperative Extension Service



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## CLARK COUNTY REPORT TO THE PEOPLE 2024

*The Clark County Cooperative Extension Service provides practical education from Land Grant Universities that you can trust to help our community and local businesses solve problems, develop skills, and build a better future.*

### Extension Office Usage

91

Outside Group  
Meetings

374

Extension  
Meetings

3,701

Outside Group  
Attendees

5,117

Extension Group  
Attendees

# Agriculture & Natural Resources

Clark County's Agriculture and Natural Resource programs provide education in agricultural production and environmental stewardship. ANR offers farm consultation and visits, soil testing, forage sampling, and much more to residents of Clark county. Educational programs will range from forage establishment, livestock stewardship, farm start, wildlife habitat improvement, and much more.



Winter School 2024



Agents from Counties Participating in the 2024 Hay Contest

- **Winter School**

Winter School is the opportunity for anyone in Clark County to learn about interesting agricultural topics such as bull selection, pasture fertilizer needs, hay storage, pond construction, water and feeding area layout, NRCS program, wildlife habitat, and insects in the backyard. Winter school consisted of 3 nights hosting over 280 participants total.

- **Private Applicator Class**

The Clark County Extension Office has always offered Clark County Residents the opportunity to become certified restricted-use pesticide Private Applicators. The extension office worked with the local FFA chapter to offer the class to high school students. Over 45 students were able to be certified through this collaboration and this certification helps meet the students work readiness goal before graduation.

- **Home Poultry Processing Class**

The Clark County Extension Office hosted a poultry processing class for participants looking to process their own birds. Participants were able to learn how to handle, process, and preserve locally raised poultry with and without equipment which can be borrowed from the Clark County Extension Office.

- **Central Kentucky Hay Contest**

Clark County Extension Office worked with nine other counties in central Kentucky to host the first Central Kentucky Hay Contest. Over 300 samples were collected, and producers were able to work with their Extension Agent to determine the quality of their hay and determine how to feed this hay to their livestock. Clark County collected the most samples of the participating counties.

- **Free County Services**

The Clark County Extension Office also offers free farm visits, soil testing, forage testing, ration building, agricultural water testing, forage nitrate testing, forage prussic acid testing, and much more!



# Family & Consumer Sciences

Family and Consumer Sciences Extension improves the quality of individual and family life through education, research, and outreach. FCS focuses on the following seven initiatives: Making Healthy Lifestyle Choices, Nurturing Families, Embracing Life as You Age, Securing Financial Stability, Promoting Healthy Homes and Communities, Accessing Nutritious Food, and Empowering Community Leaders.

- **Food Preservation and Preparation Classes**

Food preservation workshops were offered teaching research-based methods for preserving produce. Additional food preparation classes (culinary herbs and candy making) were offered in the fall.

- **Local Food Access**

Held Home Based Microprocessor certification workshops and facilitated distribution of Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Vouchers to increase access to local food. Also set up at Farmer's Market to promote fresh produce consumption.

- **Cooking/Life Skills Programs**

*Super Star Chef Cooking Camp* - Three-day hands-on cooking and nutrition program designed to empower youth with basic cooking and kitchen skills.

*Recipes for Life* - Hands-on educational experience for fifth grade students (415) teaching nutrition, kitchen safety, food preparation, and life skills. Over 50 community volunteers assisted this year.

- **Laugh and Learn Playdates**

Monthly learning program targeting school readiness objectives for 2-5 year olds. Programs are held in collaboration with elementary FRYSCs and the public library.

- **Substance Use Prevention Programs**

*Truth & Consequences* - Over 400 ninth graders at George Rogers Clark High School participated in this program that allows students to experience possible outcomes of substance use.

*Botvin Life Skills* - trained five Baker staff to implement substance abuse prevention program with 6th graders. Program designed to reduce the risks of alcohol, tobacco, drug abuse, and violence by targeting the major social and psychological factors that promote the initiation of substance use and other high-risk behaviors.

- **Disaster Preparedness Programs**

Multi-county collaboration to provide disaster preparedness information to community as well as offer emergency preparedness kits for discounted purchase. Taught in Clark and Powell Counties.

- **Clark County Homemaker Clubs**

Clark County Homemakers is a volunteer organization that works to improve the quality of life for families/communities through leadership development, volunteer service, and education. FCS serves as advisor to 12 traditional homemaker clubs and 5 specialty clubs.



# Horticulture

The Clark County Extension Office Horticulture program provides educational training and technical assistance to our community. Our technical services include soil testing, disease diagnosis, and plant, weed, and insect identification. Cooperative Extension is the major provider of research-based information for consumers and horticulture businesses.



Farmer's Market Programing



All About Earthworms



Pollinator Support Plants

- **Community Assistance**

Extension Horticulture supported citizens of the community with different horticultural needs through 32 plant disease diagnoses, 25 plant identifications, over 100 soil samples, and more than 55 site visits.

- **Community Support**

Education, guidance, and other various forms of support were provided to the community through many avenues including monthly newsletters, articles in The Winchester Sun, WWKY morning radio show appearances, school garden groups, senior center garden groups, community parks, Habitat for Humanity, Clark/Powell Beekeeper's Association, and FFA Alumni.

- **Herb Gardening Series**

Horticulture and FCS joined efforts for this program to provide education on growing, harvesting, cooking, preserving, and storing herbs. Almost 50 participants walked away with seeds and plants to grow, tools to help them in their efforts, and recipes to make at home using the herbs they were able to grow.

- **Farmers Market program and events**

Over 300 citizens learned from and interacted with Extension through Farmer's Market events like Veggiefest, Kid's Day, and Opening Day. Extension Horticulture also supported the more than 50 growers/vendors who sold at the local farmer's market.

- **Educational Programs**

More than 460 citizens have attended free educational classes to learn things on many different horticulture topics. Gaining skills in one of the many different gardening areas can benefit individuals in many ways like an increase in food supply, mental health benefits, along with providing support to our pollinator populations in urban areas.

*Bats in the Backyard* - Attendees learned about the benefits of having bats on their property.

*Backyard Biters* - Education on the different insects found around the yard that can cause some aggravation.

*Vegetable Gardening* - Education from starting a vegetable garden, maintaining it, and harvest and storage of fresh vegetables.

*Home Composting* - Participants learned the basics of composting and the benefits of using compost. This class was held in two different locations to better reach the community.

*Succulents* - Participants learned how to grow and care for the many different succulents and how to utilize them in difficult areas.



# 4-H Youth Development



Capitol Experience



4-H Shooting Sports Competition



Teen Conference Area Night



Quilt Camp

4-H Youth Development programs focus on providing opportunities for youth to experience belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity to build leaders with marketable skills in today's society. 4-H focuses on the following seven core content areas: Agriculture, Healthy Living, Family & Consumer Science, Communications, Natural Resources, Leadership, & Science, Engineering & Technology.

- **4-H Summer Camp**

Clark County took our second-largest camping group of 318 students to North Central 4-H Camp this past summer, where they participated in a wide variety of activities that promote independence and mastery.

- **School Clubs**

Each month of the school year we visited 397 3rd graders and 405 4th graders to do an educational 4-H lesson on our core content areas.

- **Teen Leadership Programs**

21 teens participated in leadership opportunities that include teen council meetings, retreats, service projects and workshops.

- **Quilt Camp**

12 youth participated in a week long quilt camp where they learned the basics of sewing/quilting and completed their first quilts!

- **4-H Agriculture Days**

All 3rd graders (nearly 400 students) attended the 4-H Agriculture Days at Gilkison Farm where students learned about beef, drone, soybeans, corn, farm equipment, dairy, farm chores, horses, goats, poultry, sheep, bees and horticulture.

- **4-H Environmental Camp**

Over 350 4th Grade Students in Clark County attended environmental camps and participated in environmental education lessons.

- **Capitol Experience**

5 youth attended Capitol Experience in Frankfort where they learned about the legislation process, met with officials and toured the Capitol.

- **Reality Store**

Nearly 370 8th grade students at Robert D. Campbell School participated in financial literacy lessons and a hands-on, real-life simulation activity that gives 8th graders the opportunity to make lifestyle and budget choices similar to those that will be faced as an adult.

- **Dollars and Sense**

356 6th graders at Baker Intermediate participated in the Dollars and Sense Program that teaches about needs versus wants as well as making good financial decisions.

- **4-H Shooting Sports**

The Shooting Sports program includes nearly 100 Clark County youth and of those 18 participated in the State 4-H Shooting Sports Competition with several placing high in their disciplines.

- **4-H Clubs**

There are over 19 4-H clubs that meet monthly with over 320 youth participants and 40 volunteer leaders.

- **4-H Volunteers**

86 volunteers worked with Clark County 4-H youth and spent 750 hours leading clubs and workshops and 6,195 hours at 4-H Camp.

# Office-Wide Programming



Fall Fest 2024

## Fall Festival

At the 2024 Fall Festival, over 620 community members came to the extension office to learn about how extension can help them. Participants were able to enjoy games, learn to fish, craft with homemakers, pick a pumpkin from the pumpkin patch, and learn to grow bulbs. This was a fun way for the community to learn more about the services offered at the Clark County Extension Office and learn skills from extension volunteers.

## Pumpkin Days

Provided cross program area education on all-things-pumpkin to 362 kindergarteners at Shearer, Conkwright, Justice and Strode Station Elementary Schools over two days in the fall. Students learned about the pumpkin life cycle, parts of a pumpkin, pumpkin nutrition, as well as played pumpkin-themed games and decorated pumpkins. All students received a pumpkin to take home courtesy of a local producer.



Pumpkin Days 2024

## Kids Day

Clark Extension partnered with the Winchester Clark County Farmers Market to bring Kids Day to the market. More than 200 youth were able to learn about accessing locally grown foods, succulent plant care, and vegetable nutrition, while 100 of those youth received a \$10 voucher to spend at the market.



Kids Day 2024

## Cooperative Extension Service

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

## MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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Lexington, KY 40506



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