

# Extension Promotes Health

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

 University of  
**Kentucky**  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment



*Daviness County youth learn dangers of downed power line.*

*Extension prepares youth and adults for emergencies and promote best practices to reduce risk of accidents.*

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*It starts with us*



**Hardin County** youth learning the importance of ATV safety.



Unintentional injury remains the leading cause of death among youth ages 19 and under (Kidsdata.org, 2018). To raise awareness and show youth ways to prevent injuries, county Cooperative Extension county offices applied for and received grants from the Progressive Agriculture Foundation to host a Progressive Agriculture Youth Safety Day. The grant provides access to training, along with educational and planning materials. Between 2015 and 2017, over thirty Kentucky Extension offices reported successful safety programs. At each of the Home and Farm Safety Day programs, students from local elementary or middle schools and their parents rotate to multiple stations that reflect priorities for their county. Each station has an Extension agent, local professional or trained volunteer conducts a demonstration or provides a hands-on experience.

Since 2013, Kentucky has ranked in the top five states for all-terrain vehicle (ATV) fatalities of which 25% are youth. For that reason, Progressive Farm Safety Day in **Hardin** and **Union Counties**

included a mock ATV accident conducted by local first responders. Of the 128 **Daviess County** youth who participated in an ATV safety station, 87% indicated they would wear helmets when riding in the future.

Conducting the program at a **Todd County** local farm allowed the students to observe a mock riding lawnmower accident. The lawnmower did not have a roll over bar. Since corn and soybeans are a major agricultural commodity in that region, the students also learned about grain bins and the associated dangers.

Eighth graders in **Pulaski County**, learned livestock and wildlife safety and dangers of operating equipment while impaired by alcohol or drugs. The Pulaski County FFA and senior 4-H members served as group leaders and assisted in presenting at each station.

The number of stations and topics vary according to the size of the county, local priorities, and cooperation from community partners and volunteers. Other Issues addressed include:

- Electricity
- Firearms
- Food Safety
- Health and hydration
- Household and/or farm chemical
- Underground utilities/ power lines
- Water safety

A beef producer from **Breckinridge County** shared that he still remembers the farm safety day he attended in elementary school. The experience changed the way he and his parents did things on their farm.

**“Participating in Hardin County’s Progressive Farm Safety Day at a young age instilled in me early on an awareness and caution of potential dangers around the farm, and that sense of caution remains in the back of my mind to this day. If you stop and think about events that take place throughout any given workday you will realize that we really do work in a field that continuously operates on the brink of potential disaster. Learning to proceed through these events with caution and awareness at an early age is essential to safely carry out the day to day duties on a working farm.”**

*Hardin County Farmer*

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