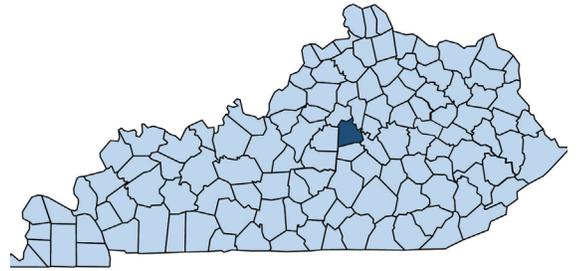


REPORT TO THE PEOPLE



Mercer County 2021



DID YOU KNOW... Mercer County had 230 people utilize the extension office diagnostic and testing services.



Website: mercerc.a.uky.edu



Facebook: MercerCountyExtension

For More Information, Please Contact us at:

Mercer County Extension Office • 8597344378 • mercerc.ext@uky.edu

1007 Lexington Rd, Harrodsburg, KY 40330

4-H Youth Development



Participants in the leadership program toured Caverndale Farms during the business session.

164

Number of hours of youth or adult education provided in county.

398

Number of youth who gained an understanding of the role of agriculture in the production of food, fiber and wood products.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

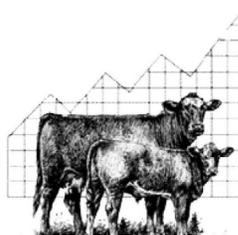
Central KY ANR Extension Agents have collaborated with extension specialists to present the Kentucky Beef Conference for more than 20 years. Assistance from long time sponsors has allowed producers to hear nationally known experts in marketing. COVID-19 restrictions forced the team to re-evaluate how to provide timely marketing and production information.

This shortened, evening, virtual conference focused on marketing strategies/outlook and management considerations reaching over 175 beef producers. Farm operations of producers vary, with most (78%) producers having less than 75 cows. As a result of attending in the past, 77% of producers reported increased profits and 73% reported improved risk management practices. Moving this conference virtual reached a broader geographic area covering 32 counties with 36% first time attendees. Producers indicated they now plan to change when they sell, increase culling in herd and improve record keeping.

In the 2016 4 H National Youth Survey on Leadership, 2/3 of respondents said they didn't have the tangible skills they needed to lead. To change this, Mercer County 4-H formed a partnership with Mercer County Chamber of Commerce to offer the Youth Leadership Program. We had 23 high school juniors participate in the seven-month program with goals to help students get to know their community better and increase awareness of available leadership opportunities. Topics included community service engagement, agriculture, tourism, community organizations, local government, and economic development. Students learned leadership and problem-solving skills, met community leaders, and had worthwhile discussions on how to make Mercer County an even better place to live, work, and play. In addition, youth participated in workshops that focused on how to prepare a resume and how to apply for scholarships to further higher education.

Kentucky Beef Conference

October 19, 2020



7:00—Presiding

Adam Probst, Woodford County Agent, Ag & Natural Resources

Welcome and Opening Comments

Current Beef Cattle Situation

Patrick Linnell, Analyst for Cattle-FAX

Agents utilized various forms of advertising to promote the KY Beef Conference.

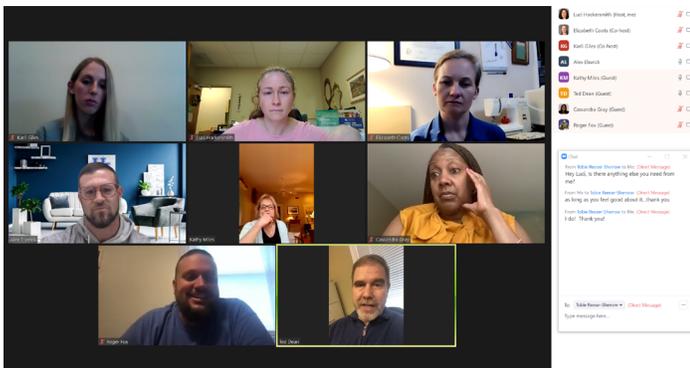
2500

Number of clientele increasing agriculture awareness due to Extension programming.

1100

Number of people who increased knowledge of farm health and safety practices.

Family and Consumer Sciences



Speakers for panel discussion on substance abuse and recovery.

8800

Number of hours KEHA members volunteered in community activities and events.

53

Number of individuals who practice effective parenting skills and improved parenting skills.

Horticulture

Beekeeping is popular among homeowners and commercial horticulturalists in central KY. To continue meeting needs of beekeeping clubs during COVID-19, Bourbon, Harrison, and Mercer horticulture agents decided to offer a virtual beekeeping program with the State Apiarist. The participants represented eight (8) different counties and ranged in experience levels, from 2 beehives up to 200. 100% of participants indicated the speaker provided useful information and they learned something new about apiarist office services and beekeeping.

Of those that completed the survey 100% stated that because of discussions held during the program, they would make some changes to their beekeeping operation. Some of the improvements include: implement treatment options for mites, more effectively monitor varroa mites, increase frequency of mite testing to have better control, checking mite levels with alcohol wash, and better monitoring of mites and treatments.

Substance use and substance use disorder (SUD) are pervasive public health problems in Kentucky. Area Extension Agents conducted an evening addiction education session for local community leaders to discuss the nature of the crisis and explore solutions. A panel discussion was held to help 55 participants better understand addiction, stigma, and available resources. Isaiah House requested parenting classes for their Harrodsburg recovery center.

The FCS Agent developed a rotating schedule of Nurturing Parenting lessons with more than 100 participants. Fifty individuals earned an 8-hour certificate in parenting and relationships. The FCS Agent facilitated a train-the-trainer workshop for Isaiah House employees to deliver the Recovering Your Finances curriculum with their clients. The workshop was approved by the KY Board of Alcohol and Drug Counselors for Continuing Education Units for Isaiah House staff - 11 completed the program.



A frame from one of the beehives maintained by Fort Harrod Beekeeping Club.

80

Number of Master Gardener hours completed in county.

275

Number of people who gained knowledge in consumer and home horticulture.

Nutrition Education

To meet the continuing need for information during COVID-19, the Mercer County NEP assistant and Mercer County ANR Agent teamed up to provide nutrition education via the local school's "backpack program". Both had attended training and received curriculum resources through KY Agriculture & Environment in the Classroom.

Using those resources, protein and dairy were promoted to celebrate National Beef month and National Dairy month. The ANR Agent recorded videos of accurate agriculture books about beef, dairy, and soybeans and shared through the Extension Office Facebook page. The NEP Assistant coordinated with the Family Resource Center to determine materials needed and deliver 3 activity kits assembled by the NEP Assistant and ANR Agent to 75 students each time. Included were curriculum on beef, dairy, soybeans and healthy nutrition information to help students make the connection between their healthy food and how it is produced.



A sample of a couple of the items included in the dairy activity kit.

19

Number of children and youth that improved ability to choose foods based on federal dietary recommendations.

36

Number of adults participants that showed improvement in one or more diet quality indicators.

... just a few ways Extension supports Kentucky

- **23,971** Kentucky youth who participated in a project, activity or event in science, engineering and technology through 4-H programming.
- **4,890** Kentucky producers adopting new technologies in agriculture production.
- **3,898** Kentucky families who supplemented their diets with foods they grew or preserved.
- **4,161** Kentuckians participating in community trail projects.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



**University of Kentucky
Cooperative Extension**
S-107 Ag Science Center North
Lexington, Kentucky 40546-0091
(859) 257-4302

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.