

Kentucky Extension Advisory Council Meeting

July 14, 2022

Meeting Summary Points

- Kentucky State University administrative updates (Dean Kirk Pomper and Dr. Courtney Owens) shared a hiring update, provided delegates with information about regional centers in establishment in the east and west regions, and noted upcoming event dates. The upcoming events include: 25th Anniversary Third Thursday Field Day scheduled for July 21, 2022, at the Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm, Small Farm Conference Western Kentucky Style scheduled for September 1, 2022, and the 24th Annual Small Farm Conference scheduled for November 15-17, 2022.
- University of Kentucky administrative updates (Dean Nancy Cox and Dr. Laura Stephenson) highlighted the disaster and emergency response efforts and continuation of that work, details of state appropriations to support increases in agent compensation, 4-H camp return to normal operations, positive response to the administrative structure changes, and a focus on expanding partnerships with the university as a whole through an increased emphasis on engagement. With a legislative funding increase and local funding support, starting agent salaries have increased to \$41,500 with a bachelor's degree and \$46,000 with a master's degree. In addition, the compensation increase awarded for reaching each level in the career ladder raised by \$500. Eighty-five agent positions have been filled in the past twelve months, along with more than 80 county staff positions.
- Kentucky State University showcased county programming in family and consumer sciences (FCS) and 4-H youth development. Chandra DeRamus, Hardin County FCS agent, provided an overview of her programming, with details about parenting education and her partnership work with UK on the Children, Youth and Families-at-Risk (CYFAR) grant. Patrice Thompson and Louis Milligan, Jefferson County 4-H Youth Development agents, highlighted their work with in-school and after-school programs. Of particular note was the Tech Changemakers program. Patrice and Louis were joined by six 4-Hers participating in the Summer Transportation Institute who shared how 4-H has made a difference for them through developing social, communications and decision-makings skills as well as providing knowledge gain and career exploration.
- The Graves County Extension Council was recognized with the Randall Barnett Outstanding County Extension Council Award. Kelsey Chadwick and Alison Croslin accepted the award on behalf of Graves County.

- Louis “Jenie” Carter was recognized with presentation of Kentucky State University’s Harold Benson Hall of Fame Award.
- During the council business meeting, the Council Engagement Committee shared plans to organize two “lunch and learn style” virtual sessions prior to the 2023 winter meeting. New delegates attending their first meeting were introduced. Six outgoing delegates were recognized: Teresa Combs, East 5; Susan Hansford, East 2; Melanie Kelley, 4-H Delegate; Tracy Mitchell, West 7; Kathy Setterman, East 8; and Mattie Spaulding, Central 4. Karen Hill shared her appreciation for Ann Porter’s service as past president this year. Delegates were asked to note the winter meeting date – February 28-March 1, 2023, in calendars.
- Karen Hill reviewed several “next steps” for delegates:
 - Delegates representing specific areas were asked to ensure the meeting summary points are shared with the county councils within their area, either via attendance at a meeting, email, or any other means that works within the area.
 - Area delegates were asked to stay in touch with their alternate delegates and a full council roster was provided.
 - Delegates were asked to pose the following question to county councils and bring responses to the winter meeting: How can UK and KSU best work together to meet local needs?
 - All council members were encouraged to share appreciation with Kentucky legislators for the appropriations to support increases in agent compensation.