

**July 27, 2023**

***Summer Meeting Summary Points***

- University of Kentucky Extension updates (Dr. Laura Stephenson) showcased the university's focus on Land-grant Engagement, including a unique partnership with the College of Social Work to provide behavioral health support at 4-H camps this summer, a first of its kind program nationally. Staffing updates included a report on county hiring the past twelve months (57 agent positions and 106 county staff positions), introduction of Jeremy Teal who was named West Regional Extension Director effective June 1<sup>st</sup>, and updates on the hiring process for the Central 7 & 8 and West 5 & 6 Area Extension Directors. Specialist positions in Agriculture and Natural Resources, Family and Consumer Sciences and 4-H Youth Development focused on professional development and agent support were highlighted. Dr. Stephenson updated the council on disaster and emergency preparedness training planned for agents and concluded by noting more than 11,000 youth participated in 4-H camp this summer, the largest camping season since the pandemic.
- Kentucky State University Extension updates (Dr. Jessie Lay) highlighted the university's research and demonstration farms, including the Harold R. Benson Farm, the environmental education center in Henry County, and a recently purchased farm in Franklin County that will include an emphasis on solar energy/solar farms. She shared that the college's small scale farm grant program has provided funding for more than 1,100 farmers across the state and that programming focused on small-scale ruminants remains in demand. Dr. Lay noted that KSU has been increasing disaster and emergency preparedness and response programming and implementing programs focused on heir's property and family financial planning. KSU held the 4-H Ag Discovery Camp this summer and anticipates announcing a new 4-H program leader soon.
- Kim Henken shared an overview of the upcoming Extension Community Assessment survey. The survey launched August 1<sup>st</sup>, and the goal is to garner input from a broad cross section of citizens in every county. Survey results will aid counties in determining specific programming emphases locally while identifying statewide trends for in depth program development. SEAC delegates were challenged to reach out to at least 10 people to encourage survey response and to promote the survey to County Extension Councils, challenging each CEC member to make a similar commitment. Council delegates participated in a discussion activity to identify strategies to promote the assessment and outline resources needed for promotion.
- A panel of SEAC delegates (Dwayne Duncan, Lee Gresham, Kevin Kenady and Susan Pugh) shared techniques they have used to connect with County Extension Councils. Attending CEC meetings in person within their areas has fostered connection. Reaching out to CEC leaders via email has also been an effective means to share summaries from each SEAC meeting. For all SEAC members, having a time on the agenda at each CEC meeting provides an opportunity to highlight the work of the state council. It was also suggested that area delegates provide the summary points from SEAC meetings in advance of attending CEC meetings.

- Administrative greetings and remarks were provided by Dr. Marcus Bernard, Chair of the School of Agriculture, Communities, Environment and the Sciences at Kentucky State University and Dr. Nancy Cox, Vice President for Land-grant Engagement and Dean of the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment at the University of Kentucky.
  - Dr. Bernard shared regrets from Dean Kirk Pomper and noted that KSU's new president, Dr. Koffi C. Akakpo, has voiced strong support and a commitment to increase Extension. Dr. Bernard highlighted the recent purchase of a 110-acre farm in Franklin County to add to KSU's research and outreach capacity and shared that the university's inaugural "Ag Roundup" is scheduled for September 7<sup>th</sup> on-campus.
  - Vice President Cox highlighted the college's recent gift totaling to \$100 million from the Gatton Foundation. Strategies to utilize the funds in alignment with the foundation's priorities and college mission are in development. She shared that the college's new name (Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment) honors Bill Gatton's parents, a farm family from Muhlenberg County. Dr. Cox recognized Dr. Laura Stephenson and the UK Extension's administrative team for advancements since 2019.
- The 2023 Randall Barnett Outstanding County Extension Council Award was presented to Knott County. Agents Lorie Adams, Dora Centers and Chad Conway were in attendance to accept the award on behalf of the council.
- During the council business meeting, the Council Engagement Committee shared potential topics for webinars, with plans to hold two webinars prior to the 2024 winter meeting. The Bylaws Committee presented proposed amendments for consideration and all amendments were approved. Outgoing delegates with terms ending December 31, 2023 were recognized: Leroy Ballew, KSU Delegate; Lonzo Ballew, KSU Delegate; Mary Eenie Burkerroe, East Area 8 Delegate; Danny Callahan, Central Area 1 Delegate; Linda Ciccoli, West Area 5 Delegate; Jerrie Cossett, East Area 6 Delegate; Sarah Evans, West Area 3 Delegate; Lee Gresham, Central Area 3 Delegate; Keith Jeffries, Central Area 6 Delegate; Tim Karn, West Area 5 Delegate; Susan Miller, KSU Delegate; Susan Pugh, East Area 5 Delegate; David Rings, East Area 1 Delegate; Will Tucker, West Area 5 Delegate; Riff Turner, West Area 2 Delegate; and Debbie Zuerner, CEDIK Delegate. Continuing delegates were asked to note the winter meeting date (February 27-28, 2024) in calendars.
- Prior to adjournment, Karen Hill shared tips and next steps with delegates including:
  - Delegates representing specific areas are 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.
  - All delegates are encouraged to promote the Extension Community Assessment, both to individuals in their communities and to County Extension Councils.
  - While nominations for the Randall Barnett Outstanding County Extension Council Award are submitted in the spring, SEAC delegates are asked to promote the award year-round.

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