

CAMPBELL COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Report to the People

2024-2025

*Improving the Lives
of Kentuckians*

 Cooperative
Extension Service

Campbell County
Cooperative Extension Service

3500 Alexandria Pike
Highland Heights, KY 41076
859-572-2600

E-mail: campbell.ext@uky.edu

Website: <https://campbell.ca.uky.edu/>

STRENGTHENING | BUILDING | ENGAGING

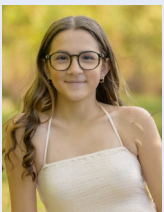
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



- Close to 50 youth from K to 3rd grade attended the 4-H Cloverbud program. Cloverbuds are introduced to the seven core areas of 4-H: Agriculture, Communications & Expressive Arts, FCS, Health & Wellbeing, Leadership, Natural Resources, and SET.



- 4-H Teen Leadership program makes an impact in their community by engaging in service learning projects. Over the past year, Campbell County teens completed over 15 service hours.



- Campbell County resident Catherine Deaton was one of over 1,100 delegates throughout the United States and its territories to attend the 2024 National 4-H Congress Event in Atlanta, Georgia. Catherine was one of the 32 delegates and chaperones attending from Kentucky. 4-H'ers who have achieved the "Gold Level" of recognition in the 4-H Achievement program were invited to attend.



2024 Campbell County 4-H Camp was our 2nd largest county camp attendance on record! We hosted 399 campers, and 73 counselors. One parent stated, "getting them off electronics and phones for a week was such a positive impact! They kept so busy with fun, outdoor activities and hanging out with friends that they didn't even miss it! Love it!" Another parent said: "She definitely showed more independence and willingness to try new things."

4-H CAMP provides opportunities for youth & teens to learn independence, gain life skills that will carry them into adulthood, become productive members of our society & learn how to acquire skills in a natural setting. It offers more hours than any other delivery method in 4-H. Camp helps build self-confidence and is a magical place to build social skills and make friends.

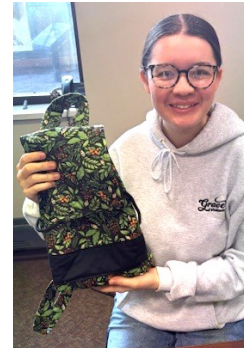
LIVESTOCK PROJECT MEMBERS GAIN LIFE SKILLS 41 youth participated at the Alexandria Fair Youth Livestock Shows. These projects included beef cows, sheep, goats, pigs, rabbits and poultry. The livestock auction generated \$93,000.00 which was a new record for the sale. In addition to the financial benefit of participating in the livestock projects, club members also have the opportunities for positive youth development in mastery, belonging, independence and generosity.

CAMPBELL COUNTY 4-H IN THE CLASSROOM was able to reach over 900 students through monthly STEM activities taught in the classroom. The students that participated vary from 3rd to 8th grade throughout Campbell County.

4-H NATURE CLUB offers Campbell County youth the opportunity to learn about nature and explore the outdoors. We had 50 youth attend these meetings offered monthly.



Campbell County youth stepped outside the classroom and into the world of agriculture to learn the connection between agricultural products that they rely on and where these products originate. Over 667 youth, teachers and chaperones attended this agriculture awareness program held at the Alexandria Fairgrounds. Presentations included Beef and Dairy Cows, Sheep and Goats, Honey Bees and Pollination, Apples, Poultry and Horses.



Campbell County had 86 youth participate in the Alexandria Fair. Exhibitors entered projects in a wide range of divisions including Arts, Entomology, Home Environment, and Photography. Youth also showed livestock and participated in the Horse Show. The premium paid to our young participants was almost \$4000.



The 4-H LEGO Club has 15 members and meets on the first Wednesday of every month. Club members are given a building challenge each meeting and present their creation to the other members at the end of each meeting.



4-H Entomology Club had 17 participants meet monthly to prepare their insect displays for the Kentucky State Fair and the Alexandria Fair.



FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES



■ The Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service collaborated with Campbell Ridge Preschool, on an 8-session curriculum called Leap (Literacy, Eating, and Activity for Preschoolers) for Health to 35 children. Storybooks were used to teach children the importance of staying healthy, being physically active, and eating more fruits and vegetables.



■ Fifteen participants who were 65 years and older completed the Matter of Balance series, which focused on reducing the fear of falling, increasing physical activity, and learning fall prevention strategies. 72% had become more physically active to reduce the risk of falling.



■ The family and consumer sciences department partnered with the horticulture assistant to teach the hands-on gardening and cooking program to 12 families. 100% of the families said they were cooking with their child more at home.



THE BARN: FARM DINNER THEATER was developed as a strategy to address and explore the difficult topics of mental health and suicide within a rural community. UK Cooperative Extension agents from Northern Kentucky Counties recruited youth and adult participants to experience the BARN Workshop and produce the Farm Dinner for their community.

Workshop participants demonstrated statistically significant increases in knowledge for mental health and well-being, recognition of stress, anxiety, and depression, and understanding the steps of QPR for suicide prevention. The highlight of the workshop culminated in the participants delivering the BARN Farm Dinner Theater. The participants worked with UK Extension staff and community members to develop all aspects of the Farm Dinner Theater, which 157 community members from Northern Kentucky Area counties attended. Of the 157 BARN dinner theater participants, 123 participants showed statistically significant increases in knowledge and understanding regarding self-care; mental well-being, the effects of stress; suicide as an important topic in their community; the need to talk about stress with family or friends; and reaching out to someone if feeling hopeless or having suicidal thoughts.



Campbell County Homemakers celebrated "Make a Difference Days" honoring first responders in our community.



This group of homemakers prepare appreciation gifts for the staff at the extension office.



Participants attended a program instructed by Homemakers on the process of making yeast rolls.

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES



■ 375 participants in Forage Focus Series



■ 75 farmers participated in the 6 week Northern Kentucky Master Cattleman series



■ 360 Cattle, and 54 Sheep blood tests used to determine pregnancy and/or disease diagnosis
■ 275 Chute-side tests used to determine pregnancy for Beef IRM Research Trial



CAMPBELL COUNTY'S FORAGE FOCUS SERIES DOUBLED FORAGE PRODUCTION SINCE 2023

- Campbell County ANR Agent, Michelle Simon, focused on forages- production, equipment and improvement. The **Forage Focus Series** covered every relevant forage related topic.

- February- Frost Seeding, Establishment, Equipment for Successful Seeding
- March- Soil Testing & Fertilizing
- March- Alfalfa "The Queen of the Forages"
- April- Warm Season Annuals & Native Warm Season Grasses
- May- Weed Control in Pastures & Hayfields
- June- Intensive Grazing Strategies
- July- Baling Haylage & Establishing Warm Season Native Grasses
- August- Fescue "the Wonder Grass"

As a result, soil tests increased by 62.5% since 2022, farmers sprayed with drones, boomless sprayers were purchased and used with agent recommendations and eliminated 98% of foxtail. Demonstration farms incorporated warm season native grasses to combat the summer slump and renovated a field taken over by annual bluegrass. This saved them during the 2024 drought because the warm season forage was thriving when the cool season forages stopped growing. Management strategies were tweaked and doubled production with changing the timing of herbicide and split fertilizer applications. The Forage Focus Series made a huge impact on Campbell County farms and increased production during a year that made a drastic impact due to weather challenges. If these practices hadn't been adopted, forage production would have suffered but reports from farmers show that first-cutting hay production increased by 60% since last year.



Campbell County Cattleman's Association partnered with ANR Agent, Michelle Simon, to present the "Moo to You" station at Grow it, Eat it, Wear it for Campbell County 5th graders to learn about milk and beef production.



Goat Yoga was offered at the Campbell County Farm & Livestock Expo at the Alexandria Fairgrounds with YoGoat Cincinnati.



UK Mining College offered a Respirator Training for farmers demonstrating lung damage from exposure to chemicals.



Small Ruminant Field Day at Rugged Cross Farm and the Downs' Family teaching about health and nutrition for sheep and goats.

NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT



■ Mike and Peggy King did the trail passport challenge. *“We enjoyed finding new trails quite a bit, and had fun, as always, on our usual hiking spots. Thanks for this challenge!”*



■ Ryan and Chris Garlich (above and below) visited all the parks in the trail challenge over the last six weeks. *“We had a good time with it and discovered a few parks we did not know about. Thanks for organizing it.”*



THE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE COMMUNITY NEEDS

ASSESSMENT completed in 2019 indicated that more community parks and greenspaces are a priority of Campbell County residents.

The Extension Environmental Advisory Council took on a project to encourage walking, hiking, and exploration in our communities through the design and promotion of the Campbell County Trail Passport Project that highlighting 20 trail maps featuring over 40 miles of walking and hiking trails in Newport, Bellevue, Dayton, Southgate, Wilder, Highland Heights, Cold Spring, Fort Thomas, Alexandria, Melbourne, and the unincorporated county.

Challenge events are held to promote the project. The challenge requires people to hike all 20 trails in exchange for a hat featuring a logo that was developed to promote the project. 18 completed the challenge this spring and early summer. So far three challenge events have been held. Evaluations completed by the participants indicate that each person spent 19 hours on the trails and hiked 22 miles. In total, 78 participants hiked 1716 miles and spent 1482 hours in parks and greenspaces throughout the county because of these challenge events.



Zeta Phi Beta Sorority sisters and friends planted tree in Newport.



After walking we felt refreshed and healthy, especially on the gorgeous late summer days we have had. I have included some pictures. Thanks for introducing me to some trails I did not know about.

Angela Kennedy and Brian Kast



Students learn to identify trees by sorting leaves and discussing the type of trees in our area.



<https://campbell.ca.uky.edu/campbell-county-trail-passport>



STRENGTHENING | BUILDING | ENGAGING

UK Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
University of Kentucky.

HORTICULTURE EDUCATION



Over 250 students from Reiley, Johnson and Woodfill elementary schools will participate in several horticulture programs offered in 2025:

- Kentucky Agriculture Science Mobile Program
- Field trips to a local farm
- Monthly Horticulture programs
- Selling cut flowers at their community farmers market as a school fundraiser



As a result of our horticulture programs in Campbell County schools, students:

- Create a safe space for all learning style to be curious about nature
- Reduction of student stress levels
- Have a sense of ownership, pride and responsibility
- Local community partners, volunteers, and Extension allow these programs to blossom each year.



TEACHING STUDENTS FROM KINDERGARTEN TO SENIORS IN HIGH SCHOOL

about horticulture and integrating lessons about where our food comes from, learning about hydroponics, or creating gardening spaces for pollinators and edible landscapes has been some of the focus for over 260 students in Campbell County from Reiley Elementary, Newport Intermediate Elementary, Dayton High School, Woodfill Elementary and Johnson Elementary students participant in Horticulture School Gardening Programs.

Most of our students live in urban communities where horticultural sciences is not part of the school curriculum or home life. Teaching youth about the plant life cycle, planting seeds and harvesting fresh produce and utilizing KY Proud Recipe(s) is one of the programs highlights. Growing spinach hydroponically at Reiley Elementary engaged the students curiosity and had them excited to try their spinach in a smoothie. 98% of the students said that they would eat more spinach and shared that they wanted to plant spinach at home.



Master Gardener Volunteers have given over 1550 hours of their time to Campbell County communities .



We collected over 430 lbs. of used nursery containers for recycling to keep them from going to a landfill.



Over 200 lbs. of produce harvested (tomatoes, sweet potatoes, carrots, greens, and pumpkins) from The Lakeside Commons Educational Gardens was donated to St. Bernards Food Pantry.



Our Educational Gardens underwent major renovations in 2024, new raised bed gardens, an additional walking trail and steps were added connecting existing walkways to trail around the lake. The gazebo was replaced using the top of a reclaimed grain silo from a farm in Utica, KY and a prairie buffer was planted around the lake.



CAMPBELL COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Agents:

Michelle Simon

Agriculture Education

Kate Thompson

Family & Consumer Sciences

Sarah Imbus

Horticulture Education

Kellsey Agnew

4-H Youth Development

Sherri Farley

4-H Youth Development

Owen Prim

4-H Youth Development

DJ Scully

*Natural Resources &
Environmental Management*

Staff:

Stephen Ellison

Facilities Manager

Aubree Dawson

*Environmental Education
Assistant*

Joseph Smith

Terri Turner

Horticulture Technicians

Simon Boschert

Ginny Butsch

Kelli Hendricks

4-H Assistants

Allison Bowen

*Family & Consumer
Sciences Assistant*

Steve Bridewell

Madelyn Emmett

Nikki Garza

Kelli Huddleston

Diana Kasirosafar

Extension Staff Assistants

UK EXTENSION

We improve the lives of Kentuckians by:

- **STRENGTHENING** Kentucky's farms, food systems and natural resources through innovative research, education and collaboration to improve profitability and sustainability.
- **BUILDING** the health and well-being of Kentuckians – physically, mentally and economically – to improve quality of life and ensure bright futures for all.
- **ENGAGING** communities to build vibrant economies by connecting businesses and people with Extension.



Campbell County
Cooperative Extension Service
3500 Alexandria Pike
Highland Heights, KY 41076
859-572-2600
E-mail: campbell.ext@uky.edu
Website: <https://campbell.ca.uky.edu/>

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

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, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English.
University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.