

EXTENSION Today

IN HENRY COUNTY

In Henry County we're growing ideas that make a difference in your life, your family, and your community. We have a dedicated staff of trained professionals delivering educational programs in agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer sciences, 4-H youth development, and community and economic development. The Henry County Cooperative Extension Office is your connection to the University of Kentucky and the world.

"There are two spiritual dangers in not owning a farm. One is the danger of supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery, and the other that heat comes from the furnace."

Aldo Leopold on the importance of Agriculture.

Youth Ag Day

Fourth graders throughout Henry County had a unique opportunity provided to them by the Henry County Cooperative Extension Service. In August over 250 students, teachers and administrators were invited to step back in time to experience what life was like for farmers at the turn of the century to grow and harvest wheat. The effort was a collaborative effort between the land owner, the extension staff, and the local FFA chapter.

As students arrived by buses they were directed to stations that were led by FFA members. The stations were designed to depict the different harvest stages. The wheat was sent into a thrashing machine that separated the grain from the straw. The wheat was then sent to the cleaner to remove any remaining chaff from the grain. The straw was taken to the hay press where squares were made by hand for later use.



After the grain had been cleaned it was then ground at the stone mill. The last and final station was wheat bread with homemade jelly, provided

by a locally owned business "Aunt Bea's Kitchen".

Overwhelmingly the students chose as their top two stations, the thrashing machine that was being driven by a steam engine tractor and the station where they got to eat the bread and jam. Many stated that they never imagined how much work it took to make a simple loaf of bread and they appreciated where their food comes from due to what they had experienced. The teens that served as speakers at the stations also felt they had a greater appreciation of the time the earlier farming practices demanded to get a crop from the field to the table. Administrators and teachers commented that it was an outstanding field trip and one the students would likely remember for many years. Many students enjoyed the event so much that they convinced their families to attend during the weekend event.

Reaching Out to Henry County

Steve Moore-Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources

Maryellen Garrison—Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences

Cathy Toole-Extension Agent for 4HYouth Development

Kelly Dockter-Extension Secretary

Bill Burckle-Extension Board President

Mark Roberts-Extension Council Chair

Sandra Smith-Extension Homemaker President

Belinda Sutherland-4H Council President

Market Development & Harvest Showcase

Eight years after the 'Tobacco Buyout', an event which many Kentucky Agricultural Leaders have said may cause the largest change ever in our agricultural economy, farmers have become more interested in finding new commodities, products, or services they could market to replace tobacco income. In most cases, this new or supplemental form of agriculture requires a different approach to marketing, with much more emphasis on local direct Marketing.

For the past few years, Extension Service planning groups including the Agriculture Development Council, the Harvest Showcase Committee, and the Farmers Market Association, have implemented several efforts to increase producer's acuity in marketing. The Farmers Market is now 18 years old; the Extension Service assists with WIC/Senior coupon programs. A Regional Produce Auction has become operational, a series of commercial production and marketing meetings has been well attended, and the Local Food Economy Workgroup has been successful in getting over \$200,000 in grants for studies and the hiring of a "Marketing Coordinator" for increased coordination of efforts to produce and market local products into the Louisville urban region.

The Harvest Showcase had its 12th celebration and has been featured in several Kentucky magazines; It is still is touted as the largest all local Agriculture Celebration in Kentucky. The Showcase boasts an excellent committee structure, with teams to handle fund raising, advertising, programming, schedule, entertainment, livestock exhibits and demonstrations,



and antique farm equipment. The Showcase has received several positive evaluations; one individual said, "The Harvest Showcase puts Henry County

'on the map' as a forward moving community that is capable of some degree of self-sufficiency in terms of supplying many of our locally produced commodities."

Celebrating Extension Memories

The Henry County Extension Council decided that we should hold a "Celebrating Extension Memories" Open House/Reception to bring recognition to our long-term Extension Leaders and to highlight the proud history of Extension in Henry County to our policymakers. The event was held at our local Assisted Living facility as we had about 10 former



Extension Leaders who had just recently relocated to the site. We had over 100 in attendance at the event and had

table after table of old photos, scrapbooks, 4H projects, and Extension Homemaker crafts from years past. We had a 4H Apron that was made in 1935 by the matriarch of a three generation Extension family member; a 4H Camp Award and the scrapbook from a 1925 camper who was still volunteering for Extension 82 years later as well as many other local and state officials involved in Extension in their youth.

An historical slide presentation of 279 photos covering 80 years of history was developed to recognize leaders and was shown at the reception and later at the local Rotary Club as well as other local groups thus expanding the outreach of the program to more local business and government officials. The event was featured in two pre-event newspaper articles, two newspaper invitations and a half page newspaper article that appeared for two consecutive weeks after the event, all serving to build partnerships and communicate the strength of our Extension Program to our policymakers.

The Henry County Cooperative Extension Service

We deliver information, education, solutions.
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For more information,
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