

# *Report to the People*

## *Woodford County • 2022*

## COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



**DID YOU KNOW...**Extension volunteers provided 10, 760 community service hours, worth an estimated \$248,556.00.



**For More Information, Please Contact us at:**

Woodford County Extension Office  
184 Beasley Drive,  
Versailles, KY 40383-8992  
859-873-4601  
[woodford.ext@uky.edu](mailto:woodford.ext@uky.edu)



[woodford.ca.uky.edu](http://woodford.ca.uky.edu)



[@woodfordcountyces](https://www.facebook.com/woodfordcountyces)

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# **Horticulture**

The Horticulture Extension Agent, Faye Kuosman, provides educational classes, trainings, and technical assistance for individuals, farms, and horticulture businesses related to best practices of gardening, landscaping, and farming. Technical services include soil testing, disease diagnosis, and plant, weed, and insect identification. Contact Faye anytime with your gardening, landscaping, and farming questions!

## **Living on a Few Acres Series**

Woodford County is becoming more urbanized, and the Horticulture and Agriculture Extension Agents get more questions from residents with small acreage who are considering what enterprise may be available to help supplement their income in the future. In response to this need, the Agriculture and Horticulture Agents developed a four-week series entitled 'Living on a Few Acres'.



*Program participants hear from Dr. Steve Isaacs on setting goals*

The series was held at the Woodford County Extension Office. It opened with a session called "Where Do I Start?" which touched on

topics ranging from goal setting, agencies and services, available financial resources and record keeping. Other sessions outlined livestock and forages, poultry and bees, vegetables and fruit, farm diversification, and marketing. Partners in the series included local farmers, extension specialists, and local agencies including the Farm Service Agency and local conservation district. A total of forty participants attended the series. Attendees included landowners and those leasing land that ranged in size anywhere from 30 acres to less than an acre.

## **4-H Youth Development**

The 4-H Youth Development Extension Agent, Ryan Farley, provides positive youth development experiences related to agriculture, communications and expressive arts, family and consumer sciences, health, leadership, natural resources, and science engineering and technology through clubs, camps and conferences for ages 5-18.

## **4-H Country Ham Project**

The Woodford County 4-H Country ham project provides an opportunity for youth to learn about a traditional Kentucky heritage food item and broaden their understanding of agricultural products. Youth participants begin the curing process in January when they receive their green hams and apply their cure mix before hanging the hams in the ham barn. The hams are cleaned once in May and again in August before they are taken to the Kentucky State Fair on 4-H Country Ham Day. Alongside the hams, youth are tasked with preparing a ham-related speech that they give to judges while the hams are being judged during Country Ham Day. Scores are totaled and awards are given to the top three hams,

top three speeches and then top three overall combined scores. In 2022 Woodford County 4-H was proudly represented by seven 4-H'ers that finished in the top three in their age group for the hams and speeches, including five who finished in the top three overall with their combined scores.



## **Family and Consumer Sciences**

The Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent, is a resource for individuals and families on topics related to life skills, including leadership, financial stability, food preservation and cooking, sewing, and overall healthy lifestyles. Family and Consumer Sciences offers opportunities for all ages to learn and develop many skills in these areas. They also oversees the training and use of the commercial kitchen located at the Ag. Resource Building, which is available for people to use to make and sell their value-added food products.

### **Starting a Food Production Business**

As a result of questions from entrepreneurs interested in using the commercial kitchen at the Woodford County Extension Office, the Family & Consumer Sciences Agent, Elizabeth

Coots, hosted a program for those interested in starting a food production business. The purpose of the program was to share information about regulations, rules, and general guidelines to be successful in starting a business for food production. Topics covered included where to start with food manufacturing, the homebased processing program, the homebased microprocessing program, commercial kitchens, general food manufacturing, inspections and forms required, and insurance considerations. The program was hybrid, with 15 participants in attendance at the Extension Office, several Extension Offices hosting watch parties, and over 100 in attendance virtually.



## **Agriculture and Natural Resources**

The Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent, Adam Probst, provides expertise to farmers and agriculture businesses related to field crops, livestock, and natural resource concerns. Adam helps provide oversight for local cost share programs and coordination between other agricultural agencies to support agricultural producers in Woodford County. He also works with farmers in regards to soil testing, disease diagnosis, and plant, weed, and insect identification for field crops, livestock, and pastures. Adam serves as a resource in disseminating information developed by university specialists to local producers through local field days, research projects, and



classes. He is also available for one-on-one consultation with individuals in whole farm management and planning.

### **Technical Assistance**

As we strive to increase food productivity and efficiency, one of the many services offered by the Woodford County Extension Service is one on one education with producers on various issues they may be facing on their farm. Everything may be covered from pasture evaluation and renovation recommendations, forage testing, soil diagnostic services, pest identification, and marketing or financial opportunities. Individualized farm visits allow us to meet the goals of the producer, and bring various ideas from a wealth of information provided by university specialists.



### **Woodford County Cooperative Extension Office Staff**

**Treyton Blackburn**  
Extension Program Assistant

**Marie Grimes**  
Extension Staff Assistant

**Jeff McKee**  
Extension Staff Assistant

### **Extension At a Glance**

- 51 Youth gave a speech/demonstration
- 150 Number of individuals who reported increased knowledge, skills or intentions related to using the nutrition facts label.
- 200 Number of individuals more likely to buy a Kentucky fruit or vegetable as a result of receiving a Plate It Up! Kentucky Proud recipe card or sampling a recipe
- 51 Number of producers who developed and implemented a herd health protocol and improved animal health practices
- 75 Number of individuals who reported increased levels of understanding in the area: identifying estate planning strategies for the family, farming operation, or business.
- 850 Number of direct contacts made by Master Gardeners
- 24 Number of participants reporting new leadership roles and leadership opportunities
- 38 Number of program participants that improved their understanding of substance use by attending "Addiction 101"
- 682 Number of soil samples were collected for testing in Woodford County.
- 132 Youth participated in overnight, 4-H Summer Camp
- 1500 Number of people who gained knowledge in consumer and home horticulture including: native plants, disease and pests, composting, site analysis, and proper maintenance.

***It Starts With Us.***  
***Healthy Families. Healthy Homes.***  
***Healthy Communities.***