

REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

2022

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



Monroe County Cooperative Extension Service

We're part of the University of Kentucky and Kentucky State University off-campus information network. We deliver research-based information, education, and solutions to improve communities, local economies, and healthier lives for Monroe County citizens.



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4-H Youth Development

Monroe County 4-H Youth Development collaborates with the Monroe County School district to provide nutrition classes to all elementary schools. Preschool and elementary students learn about MyPlate and making healthy food choices. This knowledge is translating into healthy choices at home.

Monroe County 4-H had not sponsored any recruitment activities in several years. In conjunction with National 4-H Week 2022, Clover Fest was held. Over 100 individuals attended. Those in attendance engaged in hands on activities provided by current 4-H club leaders and members. 4-H continues to grow in Monroe County. As a result of Clover Fest, a new 4-H Club was formed. Tabletop Farmers began meeting in November 2022.

The club is being led by 2 new adult leaders and one teen leader. As the first club of its kind in the state of Kentucky, leaders and program staff are working hard to get farm displays added to the Kentucky State Fair. Each month the club is growing and producing 4-H'ers eager to learn and participate in all aspects of 4-H.



Agriculture and Natural Resources

Agriculture awareness and appreciation is always an important topic among farmers. An increasing percentage of the population does not have a direct connection to a farm, and they do not fully understand where their food comes from. Educating the public on the importance of farming is vital to the future of production agriculture.



The Monroe Co. Farm Bureau hosted an Ag Appreciation Day for youth. The students were transported to a local farm on school busses with their teachers. A short introduction to the importance of farming was given to the entire group by the host farmer, then a demonstration of a drone was presented to everyone. Each elementary teacher rotated their class of students among the seven learning stations. The sessions were dairy, beef, poultry, bees, equipment, swine, and goats.

All of the 4th graders enrolled in Monroe Co. schools were eligible to attend, and 121 enjoyed the farm field day on 8-30-22. The students loved being able to pet the livestock, play on the tractors, and the drone demo! The reporting Extension agent is also the 1st VP of the Monroe Co. Farm Bureau, and partnered with them to host the event, and taught the drone session. The Monroe Co. School system provided the transportation and a sack lunch for each child.

The students gained knowledge about the valuable contributions of farmers and farming in their lives. They obtained a greater awareness of where their food, fiber, and fuel come from. The students were educated on the importance of a fresh, plentiful, and safe food supply.

Family and Consumer Sciences

Monroe County FCS supports the youth in the community by providing leaders for 4-H project clubs. Master clothing volunteers Sue Walsh and Carol Wheeler lead youth in sewing projects on a regular basis. Also, as members of the Monroe County Homemakers Basket Club, club members assist youth in expressive arts projects such as baskets. Watching the children grow in their knowledge and teaching such an important life skill is Sue Walsh's motivation to devote her time to the county's youth.



Master Clothing volunteers provide sewing classes for homemakers. One class focused on recycling old items into wall hangings for the fall season. Those attending the class brought items no longer being used and repurposed them into something new.

Master Clothing volunteers donate countless hours to the Monroe County Homemakers and 4-H. The art of sewing and basket weaving are talents which are vanishing in today's society; however, thanks to the dedication of Sue Walsh and Carol Wheeler, it is thriving in Monroe County.

Community & Economic Development

Farmers and farm families have been facing many stressful situations over the past few years. Mental health issues among farmers are increasingly being brought to the forefront in our society and in the news. However, it is a sensitive topic that a lot of farmers are not comfortable with discussing with others. Healthy farms start with healthy farm families.

The KY Department of Agriculture sponsored outreach meetings for farmers and their families to help raise awareness of the mental health resources that are available to them. Extension organized an educational meeting utilizing \$5,000 in KDA grant funds.

Kelli Smith, Certified Prevention Specialist with LifeSkills Regional Prevention Center, and Cheryl Witt, Project Director of Raising Hope, were the guest speakers. The provided information and resources to assist our clientele who are dealing with mental health issues. Forty three members of farm families attended, and a ribe-eye meal was served.

The collaboration between Extension, KDA, LifeSkills, and Raising Hope enabled us to reach an underserved audience that needs to know there is help available, and that someone cares about them.



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Facebook Pages: Monroe County, Kentucky 4-H
Monroe County Family and Consumer Sciences
Monroe County Agriculture

Healthy Families. Healthy Homes. Healthy Communities.



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