



# REPORT TO THE PEOPLE 2023-2024



Extension provides practical education you can trust by helping individuals, families, businesses, and communities solve problems, develop skills, and build a better future.

*It starts with us*

### **Leadership: 4-H Teen Leadership Academy**

Teen Leadership Academy provides youth-led experiences with a focus on teens to develop and guide them in developing Leadership skills.

Outcomes:

- Developed their leadership potential.
- Enhanced communication skills.
- Improved self-esteem.
- Became engaged in civic activities.
- Learned effective decision-making methods and experienced problem-solving situations.
- Understood the importance of diversity.

TLA Graduates serve as 4-H Camp Counselors, 4-H Club Teen Advisors and community leaders.

### **Leadership: 4-H Clubs**

4-H Clubs provide experiential learning that promotes the Essential Elements of Youth Development. Membership in 4-H provides opportunities for youth to learn and apply life skills that encourage active involvement and participation in our community including: Leadership, Citizenship, Service Learning, Public Speaking, and fostering Youth-Adult partnerships. 4-H provides hands-on experiences, where youth express their ideas and thoughts, and use their influence to drive positive outcomes in their lives. Strong leadership and decision-making skills are essential in helping shape 4-H members into responsible caring adults. Youth who are empowered with life skills can lead for a lifetime.



### **Agriculture: Youth Agriculture Days**



Youth Ag Days exposed youth to agriculture in real time and provided them with the opportunity to experience crop production, technology, farm animals, and careers. Two-hundred 4<sup>th</sup> grade students held baby chickens and experienced drone technology, while interacting with over 50 agriculture industry representatives. Over 85% of the students do not have a farm background and ultimately learned how agriculture impacts their daily lives. A teacher stated, “My students learned that agriculture is much more than just being a farmer, they learned about many different agriculture careers in science and technology.”

### **Truth or Consequences: The Choice is Yours**

Truth or Consequences is an enrichment activity designed to show students the impact of engaging with illicit and legal substances. Eighth-grade students at Ohio County Middle School role-played scenarios including possession of prescription drugs, driving under the influence, possession of alcohol, drug paraphernalia, or illegal drugs, trafficking, stealing drugs, etc. Depending on the scenario, students visited appropriate officials and/or agencies to experience the consequences of their behavior.





- 272 eighth- grade students participated
- 50 total adult volunteers and community partners participated
- 272 students participated in Truth or Consequences Event
- 50 Adult volunteers participated in Truth or Consequences
- 13 Community Organizations participated in Truth or Consequences

### **Kids Day at the Farmer's Market**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 60% of children do not consume enough fruit in their diet, and 93% do not eat enough vegetables. The Ohio County Extension Service collaborated with the Beaver Dam Community Farmers Market and Ohio County Health Care to host "Kids Day at the Farmers Market".

The "Kids Farmer's Market Day" is designed to: 1) Emphasize the relationship the farm plays in providing food to the table, 2) Increase youth's consumption of fruits and vegetables, 3) Highlight the importance of eating a variety of colors in fruits and vegetables and 4) Increase awareness of our local farmer's market's variety and convenience.



This year's "Kids Day at the Farmers Market" was the largest ever, with over 300 families participating. Numerous activities such as, a fruit and vegetable scavenger hunt w/vendors, balloon figures, petting zoo, bouncy houses, making youth bracelets, face painting, interactions w/vendors were available, as well as, recipes/SNAP calendars were distributed. All children who completed the scavenger hunt went home with vegetables for prizes.

### **Efficient Beef Hay Feeding & Watering Systems**

Feeding beef cows is a major cost to producers, usually 50-70% of maintaining the animals. Utilizing efficient hay feeding systems can reduce the amount of time a producer spends making hay bales available to animals.

Dr. Steve Higgins, U.K. Ag Engineer, highlighted more efficient hay feeding/watering systems being demonstrated at the Eden Shale Farm.

Eighty beef producers attended, learning about the various hay feeding systems and watering systems they have being utilized at the Eden Shale Farm. The producers enjoyed a lively Q&A discussion about each of the systems. A survey of attendees indicated:



- 50% planned to integrate at least one of the hay feeding concepts/designs discussed before the next winter feeding period.
- 45% would be upgrading their watering systems utilizing at least one of the designs discussed

As one producer stated "This was one of the most impactful Extension meetings I have ever attended. We need to be more time efficient in all our operations – thus minimizing the wear-and-tear on equipment and reducing fuel costs"

Find out what's

# Wildly Possible

## Extension Happenings

- 54% percent of the families had never visited the Beaver Dam Community farmer's market.
- Over \$5000 in vendors sales for the day. By far the best sales day for the year.
- 85% indicated they would be visiting the Farmer's Market again.
- 4-H School Clubs – 42 school clubs at 6 elementary schools 813 youth
- 4-H Club Officers Elected – 344 youth received officer training
- 4-H Camp – 108 youth, 4 teens 19 adults
- 4-H Body Walk – Nutrition Health Program 276 youth 48 teen volunteers 769 volunteer hours
- 4-H Youth Ag Days – 261 4th grade youth learned about agriculture, 728 Volunteer Hours
- 4-H Marketing Posters – 813 youth designed/submitted 4-H Poster
- Kentucky State Fair Junior 4-H Horticulture Judging Team – Grand Champion team
- 4-H Speech/Demonstrations – 852 youth completed presentations
- 4-H Teen Leadership Academy – 4 graduates
- KY 4-H Achievement Program – 1 Silver, 2 bronze, 1 Clover Level 1

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Ohio County Cooperative Extension Service



Ohio Co 4-H Ky Cooperative Extension



Ohio County Homemakers Association

“ I am involved with 4-H because it's where ‘I can be me’ ”

*Emily Mohon  
4-H member*

Gregory Comer, Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources Education

Gary Druin, Agent for 4-H Youth Development Education

Nan Montgomery, Agent for Family & Consumer Sciences Education

Amber Chinn, 4-H Youth Development Program Assistant

Brandy Garcia, Family & Consumer Sciences Program Assistant

Jodi Williams, Extension Staff Assistant

### Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Family and Consumer Sciences  
4-H Youth Development  
Community and Economic Development

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