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

New 4-H Livestock Club

In 4-H livestock projects increases a variety of life skills in youth that they will use in their everyday lives. Youth participating in long-term projects, like raising livestock, can develop a variety of important life skills (Journal of Extension October 2014, Volume 52, Number 5, Ideas at Work; Cummins and Nash.) These club members learned responsibility, commitment, record keeping, time management, budgeting/money skills, ethics, character, feeding, and grooming.

At the Premium Auction, there were eight animals auctioned bringing a bid total of $10,475 and a total of $7,412 awarded to the 4-H youth. This show and auction was a result of a community coming together to support youth in agriculture. This program will be an asset to our community as these young people are the future of agriculture.

Program Efforts

- **$57,500** Funding dollars received by community health coalitions.
- **208** youth reported they followed instructions step-by-step to do or make things themselves.
- **195** youth indicated they know how to use information they are given to make good decisions.
- **100** youth apply the skills learned in 4-H and in other activities at home, school or the community.
- **81** soil fertility tests submitted by producers.
- **16** clients successfully completed the KY Pesticide Applicator training.
- **35** producers now practice efficient reproductive techniques.

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, or physical or mental disability.
Safety Day for all 4th & 5th Grade Students

While not everyone in Hancock County lives on a farm, we are a rural community. According to the National Children’s Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety, every 3 days a child dies and every day 33 children are injured in agricultural related accidents. The Hancock County Cooperative Extension Service sponsored a Progressive Agriculture Safety Day to provide education and training to make farm and rural life safer for our children and their communities. The event was a collaborative effort with local elementary schools, County EMS director, FSA, Community Education, local fire departments, 4-H, and FFA to plan an educational event for all the county’s 4th and 5th grade students.

The students visited booths with speakers presenting on lawn mower safety, ATV safety, agriability, PTO safety, grain bin safety, meth lab awareness, fire safety, electrical safety, and water safety. At the conclusion of the day, more than 139 students competed a written evaluation/test to gauge what they had learned from the experience:

- 95% learned not to get near or in a grain bin while it is loading
- 89% learned the law mandates anyone under the age of 16 must wear a life jacket while in a boat
- 93% learned it is unsafe for more than 1 person to ride on a lawn mower
- 96% learned they should alert the tractor driver before approaching the tractor
- 91% learned they should never be a “rider” on any type of farm equipment.

The efforts and community support will have a lasting impact on our most valuable asset—our youth—if just one child remembers one thing they learned and makes a smart choice.

Better Cowherd Management

Internal parasites are a constant within the cowherd and are a continuous draw on the financial outcome of a commercial cattle operation. These parasites not only decrease production efficiencies but simultaneously raise morbidity and mortality rates within a given herd. More so, this class of pest are a moving target with the ability to adapt to overused and/or under preforming deworming tactics. Continuous use of the same deworming products along with using products with low levels of active ingredient solely due to cost has become normal practice.

The Hancock County Cooperative Extension Service worked alongside the Hancock County Cattlemen’s Association to develop a program in which producers can avoid continuous use of a single product, implementing an effective rotation of different active ingredients to properly control internal parasites of cattle. Leadership has been developed within the local association to manage the purchasing of large quantities of dewormer. These products change with the season and the year so that no active ingredient is over used. Furthermore, purchasing in this manner allows for producers to access name-brand, full strength product at a price point comparable to that of the less effective generic brands that are being over used.

Since the programs beginning, producers who have never used full strength deworming products have taken part. The affordability and hope for increased production were key drivers in helping producers transition to new management practices.

Reports of visual improvement in cattle across the county have already been documented.
Master Gardener Sweet Corn Demonstration

Each year many people take on raising a garden to provide low cost, nutritious and fresh food for their families. Often time’s gardens are a subject for many questions concerning which varieties to choose, how to plant, care for and harvest the crops. With every year, new challenges emerge especially for the inexperienced gardener.

Sweet Corn is a staple in most of the region’s backyard and commercial gardens. These plants grow well in the local environment and produce a significant amount of food per the initial investment. It is a tough decision for a family to make especially for a long time commitment that might not meet their needs.

The University of Kentucky Master Gardener’s Program has become a tremendous opportunity for willing individuals to attend an in depth series of seminars and hands on workshops to further their abilities in gardening practices and then be able to pass that knowledge on. The Hancock County Cooperative Extension Service alongside The Hancock County Master Gardeners Club committed to hosting a Sweet Corn Variety Demonstration where 10 of the locally available varieties of sweet corn were planted for the public to see. Each variety was labeled with all pertinent information and community members were able to witness the crop grow over the entire growing season.

Records were kept and care was taken in harvesting each variety so that the yields of individual varieties could be made public at the conclusion of the trial.

New 4-H Cloverbud Club

Ansley Chappell concentrates on her project at the 4-H Cloverbud meeting. Cloverbuds are youth ages 5-8 and this club meets monthly to introduce them to the 4-H program.

New 4-H Rabbit Club

Hancock County started a new rabbit club under the direction of Club Leader, Linda Ciccoli. This club learned breed identification, husbandry, feeding and care of rabbits, and so much more. They presented their rabbits to all the elementary school students in grades kindergarten – 5th grade promoting the new club. They also conducted the Open 4-H Rabbit Show at the County Fair. Their year ended on a high note with 3 members showing their rabbits at the Kentucky State Fair. It was the first time Hancock County had animals showing at the State Fair!
Hawesville Homemaker Club donated a handmade quilt to Cowboy’s for Kids — Cancer Benefit Auction. The quilt was sold for $200.

4-H Teen Club members traveled to Frankfort to meet with legislators and tour the Capitol Building. Pictured are Michael Blan, Andrew Hagman, Representative Dean Schamore, Hallie Singleton, Trenton Thomas, Ericka Morton and Lisa Hagman.

**Hancock County Cooperative Extension Staff**

Lisa Hagman  
4-H Youth Development Education

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**Extension Leadership**

**Hancock County Extension District Board**

Chairman: Tim Cecil  
Vice-Chairman: Stephanie Lamar  
Secretary: Tina Baize  
Treasurer: David Winchell

**Hancock County Extension Council**

President: Stephanie Lamar  
Vice-President: Tim Cecil  
Secretary: Lorri Oliver

**Hancock County 4-H Council**

President: Tina Baize  
Vice-President: Annie Blan  
Secretary: Connie Wheatley  
Treasurer: Kara Morton

**Hancock County Homemaker Council**

President: Nancy Meserve  
Vice-President: Shirley Powers  
Secretary: Karon Jackson  
Treasurer: Maggie Craig

**Agricultural Advancement Council**

President: Joe Hagman  
Vice-President: Shelby Emmick  
Secretary: David Winchell  
Treasurer: LP Ray, Jr.

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**University of Kentucky**  
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment  
Cooperative Extension Service  
Hancock County

**Extending Knowledge, Changing Lives**

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