

SUCCESS STORY

Garden Produce to the County Fair

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Boone County elementary school students working in the garden.

Many Boone County residents are now several generations away from living on a farm. Many of these people lack the knowledge of what is involved in growing and processing vegetables into food products that they are accustomed to purchasing. The Boone County Cooperative Extension Service is working to educate our residents on the value of farming to their livelihood. One way is by educating our children about agriculture and helping them to see the results of their produce.

The Boone County Cooperative Extension Service is teaching elementary students about growing food in a garden. This is not a classroom program, but a hands-on gardening project. Students, teachers and community volunteers have planted a one acre garden in a field located on Extension Service property.

The students learned about, and participated in, land selection and preparation (tilling), soil testing and fertilizers, plasti-culture, drip irrigation, planting techniques, weeding, harvest, processing and sales.

As the harvest is made, the students assisted a local food processor to process and package the vegetables into salsa that is sold as a school fundraiser.

This year, in addition to the salsa that has been produced and marketed for several years, the students decided to show some of their produce at the Boone County Fair. Both students and teachers were excited about the results. They received 8 ribbons including: 1st place BIGGEST watermelon, 1st place MOST UNUSUAL VEGETABLE and 2nd place BIGGEST pumpkin.

Students have worked on the project with excitement and parents have said they are glad to see their children learning about growing food. Some of the parents have also stated that they have never had the opportunity to grow a garden themselves.

For more informaton about Boone County programs, visit:

<http://boone.ca.uky.edu/AgNaturalResources>

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