

# Report to the People

## Adair County • 2019

## COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



*A 25-Year Span of Cooperation*

*The Adair County Cooperative Extension Service and the Adair County Cattlemen's Association. Left photo: Founding members of the Adair County Cattlemen's Association (left to right- Dwayne Loy, Greg Corbin, David Herbst and Vince Pfefferman. Right photo: Current Officers and Board of Directors of the Adair County Cattlemen's Association (left to right- David Burris, Teresa Bright, Julie Burton, Tony Compton, Charles Fletcher, Fred Thomas, Steven Fletcher and Jason Stephens.*

In 1995, then Extension Agriculture Agent David Herbst, along with three Adair County beef producers, attended a leadership training which resulted in the development of the Adair County Cattlemen's Association. Twenty-five years later, both organizations work hand in hand to improve the Adair County beef industry. Through education, marketing of cattle, administering cost-share programs, and educational tours, the teamwork displayed has helped producers gain information about cattle production, be more profitable, and reinvest in their operations. Just by glancing at the numbers, the impact is staggering. Membership of the organization grew to 328 members in 2019. From 2014 to 2019, the Cattlemen's feeder calf program marketed 10,000 head of calves. Through cost-share programs, over 3.5 million dollars have been distributed to Adair County farmers for on-farm investments. Into 2020 and beyond, the Adair County Extension Cooperative Service and Adair County Cattlemen's Association will continue to cooperate to provide valuable services to Adair County farmers. With a history so rich in success, the future must hold even more.

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## **Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR)**

### **It's a Bird! It's a Plane!**

### **No, It's a Drone for Spraying a UK Research Plot!**

Agriculture changes on a constant basis, in part thanks to technology. Drone technology has been around for several years now, but in 2019 it was introduced to Adair County agriculture. Working with a local custom applicator, drone technologies were evaluated



*Drone preparing for a flight operated by Trey Spinks*

by the Cooperative Extension Service in research plots in Adair and surrounding counties. Results suggest that drone applications have similar efficacy to helicopter applications of fungicides. One advantage to drones however is their ability to spray in locations that are inaccessible to helicopters. Evaluations also show a decrease in disease severity of drone fungicide applications compared to untreated checks. Full results of the research will be presented during a winter grain crops meeting this year.

### **Young Farmer**

In Adair County, the average age of the farmer continues to increase leaving a short supply of upcoming leaders in agriculture. As part of a grassroots effort, in 2010 the Adair County Cooperative Extension Service collaborated with multiple local agriculture organizations including the Cattlemen's Association, Farm Bureau, Ag Development Council, and Extension Ag Advisory Council to develop a

strategy to recruit, develop, and educate young farmers in leadership. The result was the Adair County Young Farmer Program. In its first offering, the Adair County Young Farmer program attracted 24 participants which included minorities and farm women. Over the course of three years, participants gained knowledge about general farm management, challenges and issues surrounding agriculture, and leadership skills. Since that time, participants have served in a total of 17 ag leadership roles in the county ranging from Extension leadership positions, Adair County Farm Bureau, USDA leadership positions, and publicly elected positions. Realizing the impact of the program, a second offering of the Adair County Young Farmer program was initiated in 2018 attracting a total of 12 participants. While the second round of the Adair County Young Farmer program is just getting started, already 1 of the participants has accepted a leadership position with the Adair County Cattlemen's Association.

### **Weed Control Research**

In Adair County, 52,000 acres or roughly 30% of the land used for agriculture is utilized for pasture. In recent years, several farmers had reported an unfamiliar troublesome weed invading their pastures. With the diagnostic assistance of UK Weed Scientists, the weed was identified as Arrowleaf Sida. As many of the farmers had already discovered, Arrowleaf Sida is very difficult to control. Very little research data existed evaluating the effectiveness of different herbicides. To educate farmers about Arrowleaf Sida control and pasture improvement, two demonstration plots were conducted comparing the effectiveness of multiple herbicide strategies. A field day was then held to allow farmers to view the effectiveness of each herbicide. The 25 farmers in attendance where also educated on long term management of forages to decrease the incidence of weeds in pastures. One beef farmer in attendance summarized the efforts best, " I realize now I need to spend less time trying to figure out which herbicides to use and more time taking better care of my existing grass to prevent weeds in the future.

## 4-H Youth Development

### MYPI Class

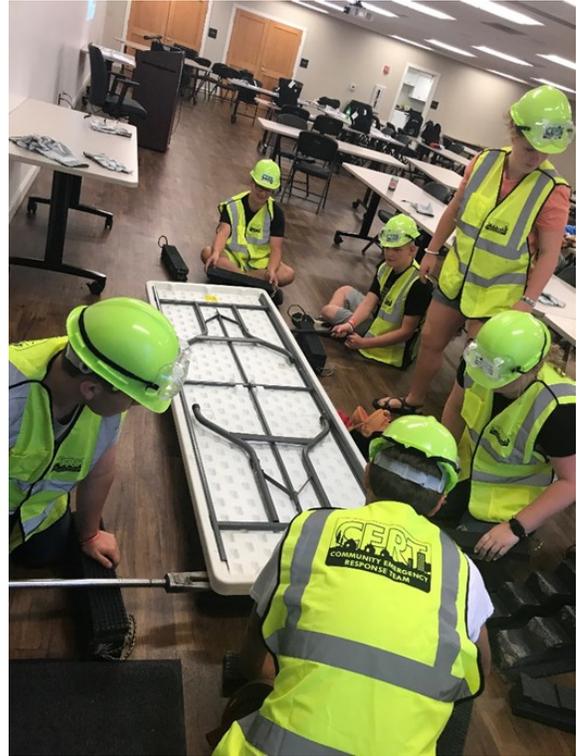
MyPi offers the opportunity for teenagers to learn early in life the importance of being emergency ready. Adair County 4-H joined forces with MyPi and offered a flexible and engaging three component program.

In Component A, teenagers completed the United States Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency-certified CERT training and corresponding modules focusing on Disaster Preparedness, Fire Safety and Utility Control, Disaster Medical Operations, Light Search and Rescue, CERT Organization, Disaster Psychology, and Terrorism and CERT as well as all Hazard-related Annexes.

In Component B, the Add-On Catalog features certification in CPR and AED usage, along with a technology track comprised of awareness programs focusing on HAM Radio, NOAA Weather Radio, Smoke Alarm Maintenance, and Smart Phone Apps and Social Media in Emergency Preparedness. The Add-On Catalog also includes a School Safety component, a Disaster Simulation, an Extreme Weather program, and a Career Track that focuses on public safety, fire service, and emergency management careers.

The final element of the program, Component C, includes a comprehensive family and community service project entitled "Prep + 6" in which each participant helps develop emergency supply kits and emergency communication plans for their household AND 6 additional households. This component allows for significant enhancement in individual, family, and community preparedness and resilience. To graduate from the program, students must have completed all components.

The following youth participated in the 4-H MYPI program this summer: Cy Yarberry, Ethan Coomer, Noah Newell, Wesley Rose, Alyssa Simpson, Abygail Taylor, Leslie Streevel, and Sarah Streeval.



*MyPi participants learn techniques on how to extract a trapped victim.*

### Youth Leadership Skills

A group of teens worked to reorganize the Adair County 4-H Teen Council over the past two years. Council membership is now at over twenty youth and they are planning and conducting meetings and programs for teens. In 2019, two youth from Adair County participated in the Issue Conference and three youth participated in the 4-H Leadership Boot Camp. Leadership Boot Camp is designed to prepare youth to apply for state-level 4-H roles. One of the three youth who attended Leadership Boot Camp was selected to serve on the State 4-H Council and one was selected to serve on the State 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador Board. Seven youth attended the 2019 State 4-H Teen Council. Participation in these conferences, retreats, councils, and clubs allowed them to experience many, if not all, of these protective factors.

Over 200 youth participated in the Youth and Teen Leadership programs in the past 10 years. Ninety percent of those participants have gotten involved in other Extension programs, school programs, and community issues.

## **Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS)**

### **Small Appliance Program**

A recent survey conducted by an online grocer revealed that 77% of their shoppers would rather prepare meals at home than eat out (Progressive Grocer, 2018.) In efforts to provide food preparation skills, the Jessamine County Family and Consumer Sciences Agent collaborated with the Adair County Family and Consumer Sciences Agent to provide an Electric Pressure Cooker and Air Fryer Class in both of their counties. Data from both classes show that 55 participants were in attendance representing eight counties (Adair, Anderson, Clark, Garrard, Fayette, Jessamine, Pulaski, and Russell) in the state of Kentucky. To promote food preparation skills, this program introduced class participants to two appliances, the electric pressure cooker and the air fryer. The appliances' features were discussed including the safety features, pros and cons of each appliance was shared, and samples of recipes made in each appliance was demonstrated in front of the class.

After completion, 40 participants indicated an increase knowledge of the appliances. Even more revealing was that 32 participants expressed intent to cook more meals at home using their appliances.

### **Be Aware of Poison Look a-likes: Always Ask First**

According to the most recent data from the Kentucky Poison Control Center, they received 79,658 calls from the public. Forty-nine percent of those calls concerned children age five and under and 249 of those calls were from Adair County.

To help educate that age group, the Adair County Family & Consumer Sciences Agent collaborated with the Family Resource Center and Adair County Primary Center offered Be Aware of Look A-Likes: Always Ask First. The students were shown examples of poison look a-likes and were educated to always ask first before they ate or drank something. At the conclusion of the program, the students were given an evaluation. Ninety-nine percent of the students could identify a poison. 100% of the students stated they would always ask first.

### **Extension At a Glance**

- 120 producers reported improved record keeping practices as a result of Extension programs
- 40 producers plan to adopt one or more fertility management recommendations
- 45 producers utilized UK diagnostic services for weed ID and control
- 25 individuals are now comfortable identifying community problems
- 25 individuals are comfortable addressing community issues through local leadership
- 50 people reported acquiring new leadership opportunities
- 1000 youth reported they can set and accomplish goals
- 50 youth demonstrated a skill that was learned and/or improved upon by participating in a 4-H ANR project, program, event or activity
- 120 youth now have confidence speaking in front of groups
- 70 youth reported being a better leader (due to skills improved through Extension programming)
- 60 producers engaged in home and consumer horticulture programming
- 40 producers adopted grain crop production practices that improve environmental/water quality

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