

Report to the People

Butler County • 2019

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



Newly Renovated Extension Facility

The newly renovated Butler County Cooperative Extension Service facility has now been in operation for a full year. The final phase of renovations included painting the exterior of the building, upgrading the parking lot lights, installing signage near I-165 and on the face of the building, installing a roll up door that allows large vehicles to be enter the activity area, and sealing and striping the parking lot.

The facility is a community asset. We have hosted community forums, homemaker meetings, beekeeping programs, 4-H events, nutrition classes, parenting classes, farming classes, 4-H day camps, private businesses have held trainings and sales meetings, and the middle school and high school archery program is based here (they have a 40 lane archery range). There have been community yard sales, and the Chamber of Commerce used the facility to have the largest ever "Harvest on the Square". We have hosted family reunions, baby and wedding showers, wedding receptions, and pre-prom gathering for high school kids. The uses for the building have thrilled the staff and volunteer leadership here at the Extension Service.

For More Information, Please Contact us at:

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Butler County Youth Becomes State 4-H Officer

Luke Jacobs has always been a champion. Speeches, demonstrations, country ham, wood working, electric—Luke excels in everything he does. Inspired by the State 4-H officers he met at the state fair when he was young, a 13 year old Luke told me he aimed to serve at the state level. He started working diligently to make being an officer a reality.

Today, at 17, Luke Jacobs is the KY 4-H State Vice-President. As we discussed, years ago, all the hard work he would need to put forth to achieve this goal, it was obvious he planned to succeed.

Many of our county leaders and community helped and guided Luke. Greg Drake II, our Agriculture Agent, coached Luke on public speaking before several county, area, and state contests, or any major speeches. Luke did the work and earned all his achievements along the way. We are very proud of his dedication to 4-H and his achievements!

4-H Project Day Camps

Butler County 4-H has always offered a series of project camp days, but because of the new facility and leadership of our councils, this year we've expanded to 4 weeks of project and cooking camps—thus bringing new clientele to the Extension Service. The Project Day



Youth cooking at the 4-H Cooking Camp

Camps have taught subjects including: cooking, sewing, art, woodworking, cake decorating, electrical wiring, beekeeping, forestry, heritage crafts, and youth have even assisted on the office mural and developing sets for displays at the Catfish Festival.

Our day camps also included lessons warning of the dangers of using tobacco, Juul, vaping, dipping, as well as drugs and alcohol.

Over two dozen different leaders provided instruction and guidance to these 4-Hers.

4-H Honors and Achievement

This year saw our 4-H youth recognized not only at the county and area levels, but also at the state level. Gabe McFadyen and Kiersten Foit received their Silver Honor Achievement and Kara McFadyen and Luke Jacobs received their Gold Honor Achievement. Kara McFadyen was also an Emerald finalist. These achievements represent years of hard work and dedication.

Teen Conference

At all 4-H conferences and camps, Butler County is well represented. We had a total of 18 youth and adults at this year's 4-H Teen Conference. Many of these youth serve on the Mammoth Cave Area Teen Council, West KY 4-H Teen Retreat Planning Committee, Butler County 4-H Council and Butler County Extension Council.



Luke Jacobs speaks to Extension Council



Participants in Leadership Butler County tour a local manufacturing plant

Leadership Butler County

There must be a deep pool of leaders with various backgrounds and passions to fill necessary leadership roles.

There had not been a “leadership program” offered for the public here for years. The Extension Service partnered with the Chamber of Commerce to offer the “Leadership Butler County” program.

This program intended to teach participants about their community, improve leadership skills, and instill importance of leadership and volunteers. Topics included: economic development, communication, public speaking, local government, non-profits, history of Extension Service, Chamber of Commerce activities, working with media, parliamentary procedure, a police ride along, and lots of networking and discussion.

Ten members of the community participated. After just the first session, one participant stated, “I’ve already got my money’s worth.”

Upon completion of the program, 80% of participants indicated they felt more comfortable speaking in public. All participants responded they felt more informed about manufacturing and agriculture in Butler County. All participants stated that they would be more comfortable accepting a leadership role as a result of the program.

Wally Cat Summer Camp

The Butler County NEP Assistant, Michele Moore, worked with several organizations to conduct a nutrition camp for children.

Seventeen children were taught four lessons each day during the camp. Youth were divided into two groups alternating between hands-on activities and educational lessons. With help from local volunteers and parents, we were able to educate these children about vegetables and encouraged them to try new vegetables with a positive mindset.

Youth were eager to share their creations and knowledge with others. One group reported 71% ate vegetables more often.

Nurturing Parents

Butler County has 259 children living in out of home care. When children cannot remain in their parents’ care, due to substance abuse, incarceration, or child maltreatment, grandparents, other relatives or foster care homes often step up to raise them. The Butler County FCS agent, Tracy Cowles, worked with the Department for Community Based Services, Andrea’s Mission, the Family Court Judge, and office of Drug Court, to make sure parents receive parenting classes when needed.

The Nurturing Family, 24/7 Dad, Nurturing Fathers, and the Five Basic Parenting Skills curriculum were used to teach these individuals. Lessons were taught at three rehab centers, the Extension Office, and the Green River Youth Detention Center.

Assessments showed 65% of parents gained knowledge in the areas of expectation of children, empathy, discipline, family roles, and power and independence.

Grain Bin Rescue Capacity In Butler County

Agriculture is the county’s largest industry, and grain crops are our leading enterprise most years. Grain farms are large and getting larger. Grain storage facilities have grown as farming operations have increased infrastructure and capacity.

Farm leadership decided to secure “grain bin rescue equipment” for the fire departments and rescue squad. The Butler County Extension Service facilitated a project to purchase equipment, get it in place with the volunteer fire departments, and provide training for the first responders that would use it.

Dale Dobson, with the Ky. Department of Agriculture, served as advisor for the project and provided a hands on training for the first responders. Darren Rice and his family served as host for the training. The Rice Farm has a group of grain bins typical of what would be found on many farms, and a shop facility so everyone could gather to learn to use the equipment.

First responders were able to perform a mock rescue in corn. Many responders had not been in grain before.

A total of 54 people attended the event. Around 98% of attendees responded that they learned about grain bin safety. One farmer in attendance reported that he “was going to buy a couple of harnesses and rope sets to use before entering a grain bin.” A farm wife reported being made aware of the need to find out how to respond if there was a grain bin rescue situation on her farm.

All volunteer fire departments and the rescue squad now have this equipment at their headquarters or on one of their trucks.

Two months after the program, one first responder reported to me that his squad was going to practice deploying the rescue tube. Many of the attendees at the training were new to Extension programming.

“I’m going to buy a couple of harnesses and rope sets to use before we enter a grain bin.”

Butler County Farmer after learning about grain bin safety

Extension At a Glance

- 1239 Number of hours KEHA members volunteered in community service (non-Extension) activities/ events
- 346 Number of people reporting improved lifestyles through a focus on proper nutrition, disease and injury reduction and comprehensive health maintenance
- 6 Number of producers reporting an increase in general marketing knowledge
- 75 Number of people who reported acquiring new leadership opportunities
- 83 Number of individuals addressing community problems by assessing community needs, developing and implementing solutions
- 675 Number of individuals (parents or caregivers) reporting improved personal knowledge (such as enhanced knowledge of realistic behavior expectations and positive discipline techniques for children, healthy ways to promote children’s success in schools, and greater understanding of a child’s growth and development)
- 148 Number of participants engaged in artistic activities that advance critical thinking
- 9 Number of producers who incorporated best practices recommended by Extension
- 1029 Total miles walked by program participants

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