

2019 Report to the People

Hancock County

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



Hancock County Cooperative Extension Service serves the community through a large variety of programs, including livestock, farm safety and nutrition.

Hancock County Cooperative Extension Service provides programs in the various areas of agriculture/natural resources, family and consumer sciences, nutrition, 4-H youth development and community and economic development. We provide help in areas of crops, home lawns, gardens, pastures, hayfields, with specialization in identification and control of insects, weeds, and plant diseases. We provide nutrition education, opportunities for leadership development, and teach important life skills to our local youth through 4-H. Delivering programming through school clubs, community clubs, overnight camps, day camps, project workshops, and school enrichment programs.

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Grain Bin Safety Sticker

Each year farm related injuries are documented, especially during times of harvest. Farmers, first responders and community members, even after being trained, still note that in times of panic forget the information needed to expedite a successful recovery of the victim.

Hancock County Cooperative Extension, working alongside the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Kentucky Fire Commission and the Hancock County Farm Bureau devised a tool that can be applied to all grain bins, new and old to be used in times of emergency to provide the needed information to expedite the recovery efforts of first responders.

The “Grain Bin Safety Sticker” is part of the Hancock County Sticking to Safety program and is being put on every grain bin in the county. Since its unveiling, the sticker has been sent across the state of Kentucky and surrounding states as well, and has been featured on the Southeast Center for Agricultural Health and Safety media pages as a new tool for farm safety.



Evan Tate filmed by SCAHIP atop grain bin



Cattle nominated for marketing program

Cull Cow Marketing Program

Each year cattle producers look to find more diverse and rewarding marketing avenues in order to generate additional revenue due to declining margins in the cow/calf sector. Most of the focus is put on adding value to feeder calves. With this, value in the cull cow is often overlooked and significant incomes are not captured.

The Hancock County Cooperative Extension Service partnered with the Kentucky Cattleman’s Association and the Hancock County Cattleman’s Association to bring additional funds back to local cow/calf producers through a cull cow marketing opportunity. The AG extension agent coordinated the effort for producers who didn’t have enough cattle to justify their sole participation in the program to commingle their cattle with other like minded producers to fill loads and to benefit each other.

This effort resulted in an additional \$104.27 per head average return above and beyond traditional marketing avenues. Producers also received data regarding the performance of their cattle to better prepare them for this market in the future.



Hannah Cooper and Maya Payne TLA Grads

Green River Teen Leadership Academy

Leadership education builds several important assets in Kentucky youth and provides critical elements of youth development (Search Institute, 2004; Pittman, Irby & Ferber, 2001.) Youth who participate in leadership development opportunities are exposed to a variety of opportunities for personal development.

4-H utilizes high school students in a variety of settings to help them develop leadership skills as well as life skills. For this reason, Hancock, Webster, Ohio and Henderson Counties partnered to offer a 4-H Teen Leadership Academy (TLA) for 8th-11th grade members. The Academy met monthly throughout the school year, in various locations and counties; focusing on developing leadership, communication, social, and life skills. The 14 teens completed a post-evaluation on the final day and results showed an overall increase of knowledge, skills, and aspirations.

Some of the statements from the post-assessment included:

--"TLA has made me able to speak in front of others"

--"My leadership skills have increased because I learned how to take charge and step up to the plate"

--"I learned how to work with other types (personality styles) of people"

--"I learned how to try something new, be bold, and be the best"

--"I learned how to function as a team"

--"I learned how to work together and be creative"

--"I loved being in front of the camera to share what I love to do"

Homemakers: Serving Community and Building Leadership

The Homemakers had a great variety of lessons including Speaking for Success, Vegetarian 101, and Economical Entrees.

The were also busy giving back to our community volunteering at the Sorghum Festival and making quilts for Hancock County Hospice patients.

They are busy developing their leadership skills at the county, area and state levels.

4-H: It's Your Reality

Kentucky graduation rates are much higher than the national average at 93.1 percent (US News, May 2018.) The end goal of graduating every high school student is the biggest factor in conducting the “4-H: It’s Your Reality” program. Programs like these are important in continuing the trend of raised high school graduation rates.

4-H partnered with the Youth Service Center, High School and Middle School to implement this program for 241 8th and 10th grade students.

Numerous businesses and county offices supported the effort by spending the day with the students and guiding them thru the process of paying monthly bills just like their parents. It is an active, hands-on, real-life situation which gives the students the opportunity to explore careers, make lifestyle and budget choices.

The students made "real-life" decisions at the 17 stores which including, insurance, groceries, utilities, communications, and child care. They kept records of their budget, spending, and savings.

All students completed a written evaluations. The results are as follows:

- *100% understand the type of education needed to obtain the job they want
- *84% plan to further their education past high school
- *96% indicated they would definitely try harder in school
- *100% said they would start a savings plan

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are leader.”

John Quincy Adams,
The 6th President of the United States

Extension At a Glance

135 youth have improved their communication skills

55 youth can express themselves through the arts

115 youth reported making healthy lifestyle choices

25 youth reported they followed instructions step-by-step to do or make things themselves

27 youth have confidence speaking in front of groups

37 youth who reported gaining at least one new life skill as a result of participating in summer residential camps

37 youth participated in summer residential camps

27 youth create a display or object related to SET and can explain what they have learned

103 grain bins outfitted with safety device

99 soil samples tested

17 producers enrolled in Beef Solutions CULL Cow Program

27 First Responders trained in Grain Bin Rescue

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