# REPORT TO THE PEOPLE





**DID YOU KNOW**... The Natural Resource Club built two pollinator gardens at the Henry County Extension Office





Website: https://henry.ca.uky.edu/



Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Henry-County-Extension-157488554329713

## **4-H Youth Development**



Students explore team building skills



Number of youth who used the skills and knowledge learned in 4-H to conserve natural resources



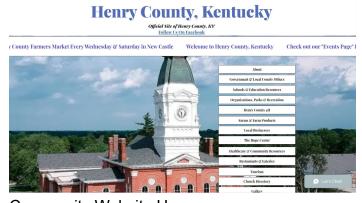
Number of youth who indicated they learned about healthy food choices through 4-H

The Summer of Wonder at the Eminence Independent Schools was a five-week educational exploration. Due to so many children missing classroom time and interaction with peers this past year due to Covid-19, students were invited and encouraged to join in the fun. Each week had a different theme, such as: facing challenges, failure to success, self-control, and here we grow. The resource coordinator reached out to partner with the Henry County Cooperative Extension Service for hands on educational activities for 70 youth from 2nd grade through 5th. Developing activities with the weekly theme in mind youth learned to face challenges. strengthen stronger communication skills, deal with loss, grow seeds, and how to live a healthier lifestyle. The youth were engaged and thankful for the time with friends. Everyone involved welcomed the time spent learning, growing, and just being together after a difficult year.

## **Agriculture and Natural Resources**

The UK Community Assessment Survey indicated the number one item individuals indicated for improvement was to feel more connected with the county. To address this, the Henry County Extension Office decided to work with the Henry County Chamber of Commerce to create a county-wide informational website. The website henrykentucky.com was live in the spring of 2021. Information shared through this website is categorized into nine different categories to include: community calendar, governmental agencies, community help resources, education, farm registry, local businesses, recreation, healthcare, restaurants, and more.

This website is driven exclusively by volunteers with the sole purpose of helping relay information about community events and services available only in Henry County. Many individuals appreciate the farm registry and local businesses registries. This website allows them to advertise their business and the type of business t



Community Website Homepage

Number of producers who reported saving money or reducing cost of operation

850 Number of residents reporting an increase in accessing fresh, local foods

#### Horticulture



Pollinator garden

130

Number of participants engaged in home and consumer horticulture programming



Number of producers that implemented sustainable practices as a result of participating in Extension programs

To help promote pollinators the Henry County 4-H Natural Resource Club designed, cleared land, and installed two large pollinator gardens this past year at the extension office. Each month club members would focus on a different aspect of pollinators and their habitats. The group decided to use all Kentucky native species in the gardens and to develop structures that would be inviting to pollinators. They also planned for areas that would retain water to encourage them to visit longer in the gardens.

The club leader started posting photos of insects that were attracted to the gardens for everyone to enjoy on social media. Each plant was tagged with a marker so that those that drove by to check out the progress could see the name of each plant. During a difficult time of dealing with so many restrictions of activities the gardens became a bright spot of peace, tranquility, and beauty that all could enjoy.

#### **NUTRITION EDUCATION**

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic according to 2019 data from the Feeding America website. one in seven Kentuckians were food insecure and those aged 50-59 had the highest rate of food insecurity in the nation. During the pandemic, demand on food banks significantly increased as families faced layoffs and cutbacks at work. In response, during the 2020-2021 program year, 78% of SNAP-Ed and EFNEP Nutrition Education Program (NEP) Assistants reported partnering with local food banks to share recipes, newsletters and other materials and resources in food boxes. One SNAP-Ed Assistant reported delivering 100 Emergency Food Assistance cookbooks, 1,250 healthy and easy recipes, 300 Seasoned newsletters and 200 Healthy at Home newsletters to a local food pantry. A recipient said, "I was so happy to see recipes in my food box. Sometimes it's hard to think of ways to use some things you receive. These recipes will help me prepare healthier meals when feeding my family. Thank you." By partnering with food banks, NEP was able to reach hundreds of families throughout Kentucky.



# NOTHING IS OUT OF REACH.



Healthy Families. Healthy Homes. Healthy Communities.



Website: extension.ca.uky.edu



Facebook: @UKCooperativeExtension



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# ... just a few ways Extension supports Kentucky

- 23,971 Kentucky youth who participated in a project, activity or event in science, engineering and technology through 4-H programming.
- 4,890 Kentucky producers adopting new technologies in agriculture production.
- 3,399 Kentuckians who improved or maintained health from participating in gardening.
- 3,898 Kentucky families who supplemented their diets with foods they grew or preserved.
- 4,161 Kentuckians participating in community trail projects.

## **COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**





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