



REPORT TO THE PEOPLE 2023-2024

**WE DELIVER SCIENCE-BASED INFORMATION, PROVIDE
EDUCATION AND TRAINING, AND PRODUCE SOLUTIONS**

It starts with us



DID YOU KNOW...

the Extension office can test most pressure canners for free?

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FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Home food preservation has become quite popular and with the internet, TikTok, YouTube, etc., the correct and research-based methods may not be in the hands of those who need it. The Daviess County Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent offered a food preservation workshop for five participants. One hundred percent of participants identified research-based methods of home food preservation as a result of this program.

One hundred percent of the participants differentiated between high and low acid foods and all accurately prepared food products using the boiling water canning method of food preservation and all identified signs of spoilage in home canned foods.

A three-month follow-up evaluation revealed that eighty percent of participants utilized the research-based method of boiling water canning to safely preserve harvested foods from home gardens utilizing skills learned from the program. The participants canned 42 pints of fruit. The participants all enjoyed the program and feel more confident in preserving their food safely.



Participants using the boiling water method to preserve apple butter.

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The widespread adoption of fungicide application to growing corn has led to improved yields by better control of foliar diseases of corn. This adoption has created a paradigm shift in the farmer approach to in season corn management and ever increasing opportunities related to application technique, fungicide options, and now, reduced height corn varieties which increase the number of acres low-clearance ground equipment can

navigate. In order to provide research based data farmers can use in determining which application technique and corn height best meet their needs, the Daviess County Agriculture Agent connected Extension Corn Pathologist, Dr. Kiersten Wise, with a Daviess County farm business to host one of only two site locations in the United States that have ever been given the opportunity to grow reduced height corn in a un-biased University research protocol. Upon conclusion of this commercial field scale research project, farmers and dealers will receive un-biased University research-based information pertaining to the yield projects of two different reduced height corn varieties compared to a proven normal height corn. Farmers will receive information related to the success and limitations of application by ground sprayer, aerial helicopter, and aerial autonomous drone application techniques. In addition to comparing yield, each application technique included a tracer product in which random leaves were collected for genetic analysis to determine the percentage of leaf area covered by the different techniques.



A Daviess County farmer harvesting reduced height corn.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



One of the Daviess County 4-H Agent and Extension Program Assistant taught about vaping to 22 classes of 7th and 8th graders at one of the local middle schools. According to the 2019 study done by the National Institute on Health (NIH), “17.6% of eighth grades have vaped in the past year.” The American Lung Association put out this information: “E-cigarettes are the most commonly used tobacco product among teens ages 12-18.” Most youth and adults do not know what is inside the vapes and e-cigarettes they are using. There has been an increase in the number of students caught with vapes in school. While going through evaluations, students gave valuable suggestions on how to improve upon the program. With help from a local School Resource Officer, disposable and newer types of vapes were incorporated into the presentation. After the presentation, 70% of youth were able to identify the different types of vapes and 90% of youth were able to name some of the side effects of vaping.



Slideshow picture showing examples of disposable vapes

According to Safekids.org, unintentional injury, while declining, remains the leading cause of death among children ages 19 and under. To raise awareness and demonstrate techniques children can use to prevent unintentional injury, the Daviess County Extension Service in partnership with the Progressive Agriculture Foundation conducted a Progressive Agriculture Youth Safety Day at Whitesville Elementary School in October of 2022. One hundred sixty-three students, ages 8-11, participated and attended eight different interactive safety presentations. In a written post evaluation of 105 participants over 90% of the children responding said they learned at least one thing at the event to help them stay safe. Ninety percent indicated they would wear a helmet when riding an ATV/UTV. Eighty-five percent said they learned to always assume a firearm is loaded and 89% said they would keep a flotation device available for every person on a watercraft. Ninety-four percent of the youth responded that they would never allow more than one rider per seat on a tractor.



Participants learning about high voltage powerline safety.

HORTICULTURE

Through a community partnership, the Green River Area Extension Master Gardener Association and Daviess County Public Library provide an opportunity to grow different plants through the free Seed Library. The Extension Master Gardeners prepare thousands of packets of seed, and patrons can check out five packets of seed per month. At the 2023 opening, the Daviess County Extension Agent for Horticulture Education presented “Decoding the Secrets When Planting Vegetable Seeds”. Twenty-eight participants responded to the after-program survey. Eighty-two percent of the attendees said: they use the seed library to try something new; they were using the seed library for the first time; and they felt more confident about selecting vegetables to grow. Asked how the Seed Library was beneficial, one said it provided the “opportunity to learn a new life-long skill” and another responded “Thank you so much for providing all of your expertise and knowledge to assist our community being successful. Gardening gives me joy.”



Volunteers preparing seeds for the seed library

EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE *Changing Lives*

Extension at a Glance

2023-2024

100

Number of people more likely to buy a Kentucky fruit or vegetable as a result of receiving a Plate it Up Kentucky Proud recipe card or sampling a recipe

47

Number of clients trained in agricultural leadership development

42

Individuals who used Extension diagnostic services to identify plant disease

970

Youth who participated in education related to family and consumer science

863

Number of people who recognize methods to reduce risk and improve farm profit

1498

Hours volunteered by Green River Area Extension Master Gardeners

116

Number of youth who participated in college and career educational programs

863

Number of people who increased profits, reduced expenses, and/or reduced risk

18

Number of Food Preservation workshop participants reporting an increase in food preservation skills

120

Number of Cook Wild recipe cards distributed

290

People who gained knowledge in consumer and home horticulture including: native plants, disease and pests, composting, site analysis, and proper maintenance

24

Number of producers who implemented on-farm trials for grain management

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4-H Youth Development
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