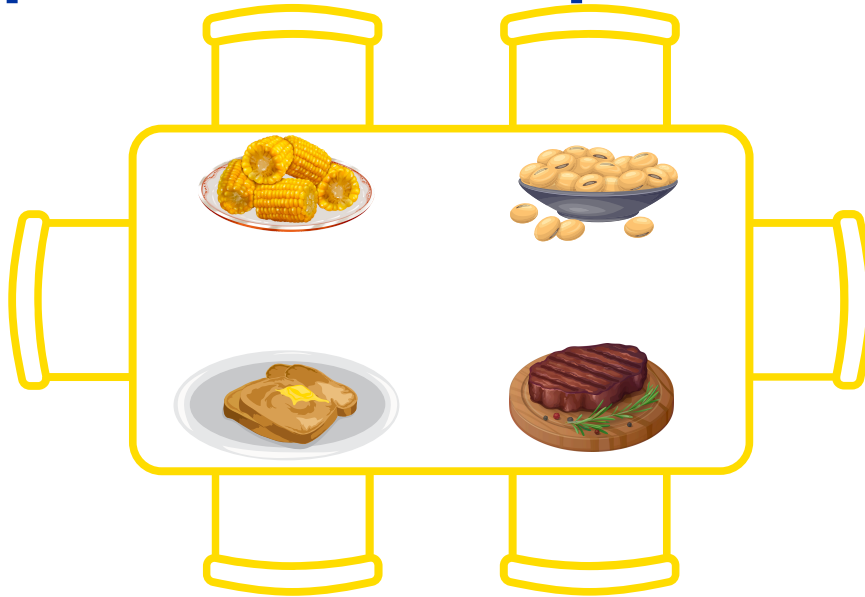




Report to the People 2024-2025



Did you know....Agriculture plays an important role in Caldwell County, Kentucky. The county's agriculture is focused on many and various crops like corn, soybeans, and wheat, as well as livestock such as beef cattle.

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Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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Agriculture and Natural Resources

Helping Hometown Farmers and the Community

Downtown Princeton was bustling with activities on Saturday, September 7, 2024, during the annual Black Patch Heritage Festival Day. An opportunity for free farmer's market produce was provided by Black Soil, a community-supported agriculture organization. Thanks to a grant from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Ashley Smith, co-founder and CEO of Black Soil, 103.3 WPKY, and in collaboration with Caldwell County Agriculture Agent Shane Bogle, local farmers were enlisted to bring their seasonal produce to the festival for distribution to community residents. The goal of the program was to provide up to 500 "meals in a bag" of local produce and meat to help small farmers sustain and grow their operations. Thanks to the hard work and generosity of local producers, over 1,000 residents were provided with a vast assortment of nutritious, locally grown produce. This partnership was replicated in several other Kentucky counties and will be repeated next year.



"Meals in a bag" featuring locally grown produce and meats are distributed during the annual Black Patch Heritage Day.

2000

Number of acres impacted by practices relating to wildlife habitat, management or damage

107

Number of people who applied Extension recommendations for soil fertility

Family and Consumer Sciences

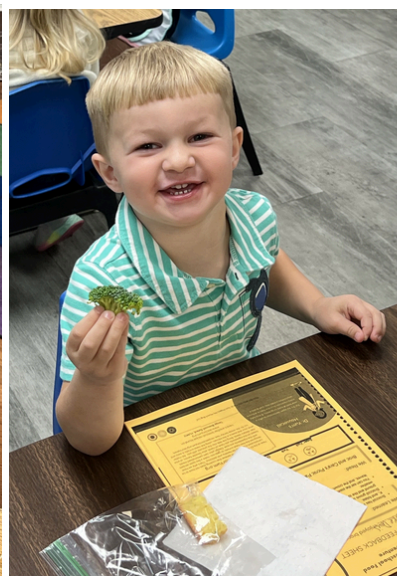
Dr. Yum's Food Adventures

Encouraging children to try new foods and develop a healthy relationship with food has been a focus in Caldwell County Family & Consumer Sciences for over a decade. This year, a new evidence-based, interactive program, *Dr. Yum's Food Adventure*, was launched in three preschools and one school age group. Each month, children are introduced to a new fruit or vegetable. Children are encouraged to describe, touch, smell, and/or taste the food after reading a story and learning about the nutritional benefits. To date, 166 children have participated in the program. Food items introduced include broccoli, pumpkin, oranges, pomegranate, and pears. On average, 87% tasted the food introduced and 99% engaged with their other senses.

"I can't wait to touch it.

It's so cute!"

~ Teagan, age 3



"This is a new fruit for me; I can't wait to try it."

~ Audrey, age 9

Family & Consumer Sciences educated individuals across the lifespan with the goal of helping families to develop practical skills to improve their quality of life.



25 preschoolers built kindergarten readiness skills through play during Laugh & Learn.



40 adults learned about the financial and health benefits of preparing foods at home during the Homemade Series.



Caldwell County Homemakers participated in a variety of community service activities and volunteered their time to extension, the community, KEHA, and their extended families.

4-H Youth and Development

Teen Leadership Academy

The Teen Leadership Academy (TLA) is a middle school leadership program designed to enhance leadership and communication skills both inside and outside of 4-H. TLA is a combined effort between Caldwell, Crittenden, Livingston, Lyon and Trigg counties. Each county selects four middle school delegates to represent their county. This year the program focused on building skills across various domains including tourism, local government, entrepreneurship, agriculture, public speaking and community service. By traveling to different counties, students gained firsthand experience and learned the importance of leadership and community engagement in diverse contexts. The program concluded with students collaborating to deliver presentations that reviewed their year-long journey in TLA.

The impact of TLA on participants has been overwhelmingly positive.

- 100% of participants reported an increase in leadership skills.
- 94% stated they could utilize information from the program to enhance their communication with others.
- 94% indicated that the program information would aid them in becoming better decision-makers.

TLA delegates learned...



How one family used their entrepreneurial skills and turned their passion into a profitable livelihood.



The judicial system in Kentucky and how it operates at the county level.



Leadership and communication skills that will benefit them throughout life.

TLA delegates stated...

- "I feel more confident in my leadership role in groups and can help people succeed."*
"I have made friends and learned many new things that are happening in other counties."