

Report to the People 2024

Spencer County, Kentucky
Home of Taylorsville Lake

KENTUCKY  KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

UK MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT
KSU COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY AND THE SCIENCES



Spencer County Extension Office

Extension at a Glance

- 50 - Number of people who scout their field(s), high tunnel, greenhouse and/or gardens weekly.
- 331 - Number of people who collected soil samples.**
- 75 - Number of people who gained knowledge in consumer and home horticulture including: native plants, disease and pests, composting, site analysis, and proper maintenance.
- 350 - Number of direct contacts made by Master Gardeners.**
- 150 - Number of individuals who reported increased knowledge, skills, or intentions related to using the nutrition facts label.
- 2500 - Number of recipe cards distributed.**
- 303 - Number of individuals who gained knowledge related to financial management.
- 3000 - Number of hours KEHA members volunteered for Extension activities and events.**
- 146 - The number of youth and adults who engaged in volunteer service in their communities through the 4-H program.
- 1505 - Number of youth who gained an understanding of the role of agriculture in the production of food, fiber, and wood products.**
- 141 - The number of youth who participated in overnight, 4-H Summer Camp.
- 1600 - Number of youth who indicated they increased their daily number of servings of fruits and vegetables eaten as a result of 4-H programs.**

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Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
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MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.



Healthfair and Readifest

The 2022 Healthfair/Readifest was a collaborative program planned by the Spencer County Cooperative Extension Service and the Family Resource/Youth Service Center. There were several other groups who helped sponsor the event with monetary and time donations. Churches and other local businesses also donated school supplies. For the past 2 years, the program has been a walk through outdoor event.

The goal of this program is to help improve the community's health for both adults and youth and to ensure school age children have needed health checkups and school supplies before the first day of school.

Throughout the 2 hour event, adults and children visited over 40 booths where they could get various health checks and also received information on health topics, including healthy eating, cancer prevention, bicycle safety, mental health, health insurance, and physical fitness. Children also received school supplies, which included pencils, crayons, folders, paper, notebooks, backpacks, markers, and other items needed for school. This helped reduce the amount of money that families have to spend for these needed supplies, especially in this time of rising prices.

The results for the 2022 Healthfair/Readifest were once again outstanding. There were over 900 people that participated, including over 400 children and in-kind contributions for volunteer hours and supplies was \$41,324.



Active Living Health Promotions - Walking Kentucky

The eight-week Walking Kentucky challenge was an innovative strategy to encourage movement among Spencer area residents and improve health outcomes for Kentucky citizens. By participating in the program, individuals could achieve their fitness goals, become more aware of the benefits of regular physical activity, and incorporate them into their daily routines. The program was successful in empowering individuals to make positive lifestyle changes.

Participants reported achieving their fitness goals and exercising more frequently than before, which led to improvements in their overall health and well-being. By taking part in Walking Kentucky, individuals can enjoy friendly competition with co-workers, feel more motivated to move and achieve a more active lifestyle.

Spencer County Master Gardener Program

With the continued growth in population in Spencer County, the number of horticulture questions continues to increase. Over the past few years, there has been some interest in starting a Master Gardener program to help educate our local residents in proper horticulture techniques. In January 2023, the Spencer County Master Gardener program started.

Master Gardener is a volunteer driven educational outreach of the Cooperative Extension Service. Participants complete approximately 40 hours of class/hands on instruction and then they volunteer those hours back to the community through various projects. After advertising the program for several months, the agriculture agent hosted a total of 8 class members (7 female, 1 male) through 14 different sessions, which included Botany, Soils, Vegetable Gardening, Woody Plants, and Water Quality, among other topics. The sessions were taught by either the agriculture agents, specialists, or other county extension agents. At the conclusion of the educational sessions, all participants took and passed a final exam.

Since the conclusion of the program, volunteers have helped around our community in a variety of ways, such as maintaining planters in downtown Taylorsville, project days at the library, volunteering at the Farmers Market to hand out materials and answer questions, speaking at different meetings, working with students in our elementary schools, volunteering at field days, and helping to maintain garden areas around the Extension Office. As of December 2023, they have volunteered over 200 hours, which translates into a total of over \$5,000.00 in savings for our community.



Elementary Communications

The Spencer County 4-H Agent, along with the Program Assistant, presented the 4-H Demonstration and Speech Curriculum to 693 youth in the school lessons during January. They each learned how to present a demonstration or how to prepare a speech. In collaboration with elementary teachers all 27 classrooms participated in classroom contests which were held during February and March. 63 community volunteers and students made this possible for local youth to gain these experiences.

The 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students learned the importance of non-verbal and verbal communication skills through the 4-H program. 85% of the students agreed that they could identify the parts of a speech or demonstration. 83% of the students agreed that they gained knowledge in how to use spoken, written, and visual language. 85% reported that they gained knowledge in public speaking.

Public speaking is a life skill that local youth gain through participating in the classroom communication contest. This school year 693 youth in Spencer County learned new skills because of the 4-H Communications Program.