

# Report to the People

## Madison County 2024



Daniel Boone established one of the earliest settlements in Kentucky in Madison County.



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## Outdoor Adventure Camp

Outdoor activities such as hiking, fishing and bird watching are just a few of the more popular hobbies that many individuals enjoy as the temperatures begin to warm up throughout the spring and summer.

The Madison County 4-H Youth Development Agent collaborated with 4-H Youth Development Agents from Garrard, Owen, Scott and Casey Counties as well as the Camp Director for Lake Cumberland 4-H Camp to plan, recruit and implement the first Kentucky 4-H Outdoor Adventure Camp. This two-day, one night event was packed with information and classes so that youth could learn skills that might help them throughout various situations in the outdoors.



This event had many expert guest instructors and partners. The instructors were from The Kentucky Reptile Zoo, The Nature Reliance School, and Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Kentucky Reptile Zoo did a presentation on native reptiles in our state. They discussed the reptile's habitat and their nutritional needs. They also brought a copperhead snake to show the participants what they looked like and what to do if they encountered one on their own.

The Nature Reliance School had two instructors attend. Their classes included: fire building, shelter building, compass/land navigation and tracking. These classes were hands on and the youth were able to practice these new skills throughout the

class with various activities.

The 4-H Youth Development Agents helped with instruction as well. Their classes included mammals, plant/ tree ID, identifying sounds at night, and fishing/ fish processing. The Department of Fish and Wildlife donated catfish, filleting gloves and knives.

### **4-H Facts:**

- Over 375 Madison County youth and leaders attended 4-H camp.
- Forty youth were recognized at the 4-H Achievement Banquet.

# Seed Library

## Let's Get Growing!

According to [betterhealth.vic.org](https://betterhealth.vic.org), youth learn about responsibility, self-confidence, nutrition, physical activity and reasoning from gardening! While youth may receive all of these benefits from starting a garden, gardening with a caring adult or as a family would allow for increased time together and support healthy relationships. As an extension staff comprised of a horticulture agent, agriculture and natural resources agent, family and consumer sciences agents, and two 4-H agents, we decided to offer a seed library for our clientele this year. Local stores were contacted see if they could donate seeds. Walmart donated over 1,000 seed packets! 4-H applied for a grant through the Kentucky 4-H Foundation to help with the cost of seeds and a way to display them.



Throughout this long-term project, a carousel seed rack was placed in the hallway of our office. Clients were allowed to take up to ten packs of seeds. Gardening information was also provided as well as nutritional recipe cards.



Overall, nearly 820 people got seeds from our office. One client visited the seed library several times so that he could get seeds to share with his neighbors. He told the agents that while seeds packets are not very expensive, for people on a fixed income every dollar counts.

### 4-H Facts:

- 2023 was the first year for the YAIP (Youth Agricultural Incentive Program). Over 40 youth received cost share money to help with an agricultural enterprise.
- A Madison County 4-H member was able to compete on a national level in shooting sports.

## Grain Storage Rescue Tubes

Grain storage bins have been in use since their invention by Illinois farmer Fred Hatch who is thought to have constructed the first modern one in 1873. According to Purdue University's Agricultural and Biological Engineering Department who has been documenting and investigating grain bin incidents since the 1970's, in 2022, there were 83 incidents reported across the Mid-West with 24 of those being fatalities. In January of 2022, a farmer in Casey County Kentucky became trapped in a soybean bin and was rescued by first responders using grain rescue tubes. Having the necessary extraction equipment on hand saved his life.

Over the past 15 years, Madison County farmers have increased acreage of corn and soybeans as an effort to diversify their agricultural income. Along with that, we have more feed and grain storage bins in use than any other time in the recent past. To provide Madison County

First Responders with appropriate and specialized rescue equipment, Madison County Farm Bureau, Cooperative Extension and the Agricultural Development Council partnered to purchase nine grain rescue tubes to be placed with various fire departments around the county. Tubes were purchased with 50% County Ag Development funds and 50% Madison County Farm Bureau funds through a reduced cost program with Turtle Plastics in Lorain, Ohio.



an extraction situation. Approximately 45 First Responders participated in the workshop and are now certified to use the equipment should the need arise. Each fire department now carries a rescue tube on a truck.



Dale Dobson from the KY Department of Agriculture conducted a day long workshop for firefighters to learn about the causes of flowing grain entrapment and how to use the rescue tubes in

### **Agriculture Facts:**

- 125 Forage/Hay samples analyzed
- Over \$350,000 dollars allocated through the Agricultural Development Council Funds

# Citizen Science Project

## Stopping the Spread of the Spongy Moth

The spongy moth (formerly called gypsy moth) is among North America's most destructive invasive forest pests. Infestations have caused significant agricultural, ecological, and economical losses. In the eastern U.S., this pest defoliates an average of 700,000 acres each year and causes more than \$200 million in annual damages.



Spongy moths are not established in Kentucky, but are in the surrounding states of Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, and Indiana. The Kentucky Office of the State Entomologist monitors for this pest annually to be able to respond to potential invasions and keep this caterpillar out of the state for as long as possible.

To extend the reach of their monitoring program, the Office of the State Entomologist created a Citizen Science project. Traps were sent to Extension Offices in Spring and Agents distributed them to local volunteers.

In Madison County, the Horticulture Agent worked with the Master Gardener group, a local boy troop and several individuals on the project. After distributing the traps, she worked with volunteers on how to assemble them and how to use the Survey123 app to mark their locations.

In late summer the traps were checked. If there were any suspicious looking insects captured, traps were sent to the Office of the State Entomologist. In all, three of the 527 traps the Citizen Scientists placed across the state captured a spongy moth. In the overall monitoring programming, 87 traps caught this insect. While this number reflects the migration of the insect, it did not show establishment.

### Horticulture Facts:

- Over 40 people participated in the annual seed swap.
- 370 horticulture soil samples were analyzed.



# Outdoor Cooking

Madison County youth and families are in need of more hands on skills and exposure to prepare foods both inside and outside of the kitchen. The Madison County Extension FCS Agent and 4-H Agent teamed up to offer a program series for children and their families to learn the basics of outdoor cooking. In this series participants learned new skills that are essential for families who are interested in hiking, camping, hunting, and other various outdoor activities and need to have a means to cook and consume foods in a healthy manner.

The target audience for this program was 4-H aged Madison County youth, who may also have been accompanied by a parent if they chose. Children were primarily 8-14 years old and were responsible for the food preparation and recipe construction. Adults acted in a supervisory role as needed while the youth worked through the recipes.



This program hosted 15 youth and 5 adults over the course of three sessions. Each session used various recipes and techniques to offer the participants a wide variety of skills and nutritious food options that were appropriate for a whole family. The first lesson the students used pie irons and hobo pockets to create a dinner with sausages and mixed veggies and fruit turnovers. The second lesson featured sloppy joes cooked on butane stoves in cast iron as well as saucy bars in a Dutch oven. The final lesson the participants used

box ovens to create a cake from scratch and Dutch ovens again to make chili and cornbread. Lessons also incorporated information about sanitary food prep practices, knife skills, fire starting, using charcoals, and how to properly pack a cooler.

## Family and Consumer Science Facts:

- There are 320 members in Madison County Extension Homemaker Clubs.
- Nearly 100 people entered items into the Madison County Fair.

## Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources  
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Community and Economic Development

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