



REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

MADISON COUNTY 2022



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Farm Field Day

With less than 1% of the population involved in agriculture, it seems there is an increase in the amount of misinformation spread about farming and farm practices. In Madison County, there are many farmers and entities that support agriculture that are itching for an opportunity to teach others about agriculture. There are also 10 public elementary schools, 3 private elementary schools, and countless homeschool families that have not been engaging in as many field trips due to COVID. Speaking of the pandemic, Madison County had held farm field day several years ago prior to COVID, but with the current state it seemed like the right time to start again!

The 2022 Madison County 4-H Farm Field Day was held September 6th and 7th this year at the Madison County Fairgrounds! I am not sure who to be more impressed with-- the volunteers or the students! All of the 3rd graders in the county, (public, private, or homeschooled) were invited to participate in Farm Field Day! We had almost 850 youth who attended and they were so respectful! They rotated through 16 stations provided by Berea College, ECU Agriculture, Madison County Farm Bureau, Madison County Soil Conservation District, Madison Central FFA, and the Southland Dairy Mobile Classroom. Not to mention the entities closer to the heart of extension, like the 4-H Rabbit Club, 4-H Saddle Club, and 4-H Livestock Skillathon team who all set up stations. The Madison County Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent, the Horticulture Agent, and the Family and Consumer Sciences team also provided stations for the youth.

Feedback from the event has been positive so far! Volunteers were very impressed with how respectful the youth were. Teachers were impressed by the variety in the stations and the knowledge of agriculture the youth gained. As a 4-H Agent, I was very impressed with the way all of the volunteers came together to reach a common goal of educating youth! Overall for next year I think we will plan to host the program again based on the positive feedback!



4-H ACHIEVEMENTS

- Madison County 4-H raised more than \$31,000 for youth from the Country Ham Auction.
- Madison County Communications Contest grew by 30 youth for 2022.

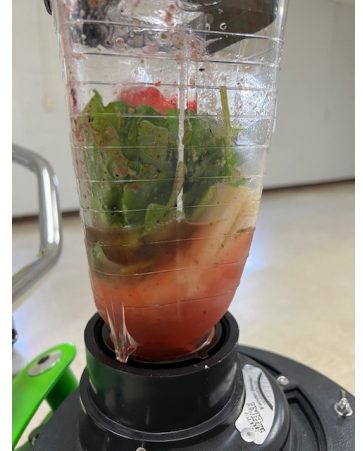
4-H BRAGGING RIGHTS!

- Madison County 4-H wants to Congratulate Scotty Rowlette on making the National Shooting Sports team, which will compete in Nebraska in June!
- Madison County sent 362 youth and junior counselors to 4-H Camp for 2022!



AppHarvest Summer 4-H Day Camp

According to Zareba's article titled Why is Education on Agriculture Important, "By teaching agriculture at a young age, kids can start recognizing how it impacts the world around them and help them learn other important aspects about life. It also explores the significant importance of how agriculture affects the world, how agriculture is interdependent with other significant businesses that make up the economic and social structure, and how it meets the needs of modern-society." The world is now facing climate change which is getting harder to predict weather forecasts and causing more severe and extreme weather which can also lead to more natural disasters; furthermore, all have a negative impact on farming. As this situation is not bad enough, the population number keeps growing and consequently so are the mouths to feed.



In order to combat these negative impacts on farming, the CES and AppHarvest have teamed up to offer day camps for local children to help spread the education and process of growing more food. AppHarvest have created "green houses" around to our local high schools that grow food by using climate controlled facilities that also use 90% less water. The CES recruited 14 local youth to come and learn how to the process works. The youth also planted lettuce and was able to see finished products that were grown in a manner in which they have never seen before. The CES provided lessons on earth worms, building a bird house, lessons on pollination, health, healthy snacks, growing corn, and even canning. The CES also made sure to get the youth outside and exercising throughout the breaks.

The partnership with CES and AppHarvest continues to grow stronger and creating new conversations about implementing a health component on top of the farming aspect. AppHarvest mentioned that the collaboration with the Madison County 4-H is the strongest and cannot wait to continue conversations on future programming.

The youth who participated all said they learned a new skill, felt accepted, and willing to practice safe agriculture. 100% of the youth recognized the importance of knowing where your food comes from and the importance of having a safe way to create more food.



AG FACTS

- 185 of people who collected agricultural soil samples for testing
- 56 producers conducted hay testing

Hay Auction 2023

Madison county ranks in the top 5 in the state of Kentucky for hay with approximately 43,600 acres produced. To help market local hay, the Madison County Extension ANR agent and the Madison County Fair Board partnered to coordinate a regional hay auction at the county fairgrounds. On Saturday January 14th, 2023 our 16th annual hay auction took place with 76 different lots of hay and straw offered for sale. The Madison County ANR agent coordinated hay testing services, some deliveries, some load out, collected all hay samples, and provided radio, newsletter and social media advertisements. Hay was tested on site by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture mobile testing program. Fair board members weighed bales and calculated their average weight for each lot of hay. Prior to each lot of hay being sold, the weight and test results announced to buyers.

Approximately \$97,800.00 dollars of hay was sold in the auction by 33 producers from 8 Kentucky counties. This year's attendance was excellent and buyers were very active. Hay sold at record prices. Averages were: \$53/round bale, \$7.38/small square (non-alfalfa), \$11.80/small square alfalfa.

Our annual hay auction serves several purposes. Most importantly, it allows an opportunity to educate producers about the need for hay testing while bringing buyers and sellers together in the marketplace where local price discovery can occur. Many farmers in the region reference our auction sale prices when placing a value on their own hay. This auction supplies much needed feed for livestock in Madison and surrounding counties, especially in years of short supply.

Seed Swap



HIGHLIGHTS

- 25 people who completed Extension Food Safety (PBPT)
- 22 women at Liberty Place Rehabilitation Center planted vegetable gardens.



Amanda Sears, Horticulture Agent, presenting about various seeds at the Seed Swap 2023.

In spring of 2023, the Madison County Horticulture Agent planned a seed swap. Prior to COVID, it had been an annual event.

The event was open to everyone, whether they had seeds to share or not. Packets of seeds had been donated from a local store and so there were plenty for everyone to take home. Of the participants, sixty-five percent brought seeds from their garden to share.



Reasons for wanting to attend the swap varied among participants. Most wanted to become more self sufficient and hopefully save money. Others wanted to support heirloom varieties and help maintain genetic diversity.

Seeds for the swap were placed on tables according to type of plant prior to the program beginning. Before the swap began the Horticulture Agent gave a presentation that gave tips about how to save seeds. She also discussed how to store seeds and check for viability. Once the presentation was complete, participants were able to go table to table and collect the seeds they wanted. Prior to the event, the Agent had placed small plastic bags and labels on each table in case someone needed them for dividing seed packets.

Eighty-five percent of those surveyed planned on saving seeds during this growing season. Ninety-five percent of participants said the program presented, as well as the handouts given, would be helpful when they tried to save seeds. When asked what plant or type of plants they were going to save seed from the most common answers were tomato, beans, squash and flowers.

One nontangible component of the seed swap was the networking which occurred between gardeners.



After having so many programs put on hold during COVID, there was a great deal of excitement for participants to be able to see one another and share. One attendee compared the seed swap to Christmas day!

Super Star Chef

The FCS agent, with support from the SNAP assistant, NEP assistant, and FCS assistant, planned and coordinated Super Star Chef day camp in the summer of 2022. There were 18 Madison County students, ranging from 9 to 12 years old, who participated in Super Star Chef 2022 and got to experience some fun and new ways to discover life and social skills through working in the kitchen. The students spent 4 hours a day for three days learning about kitchen safety skills, knife skills, nutrition, food preparation, physical activity, and cooking skills. They participated in a variety of ways that led them to create new relationships and friendships with each other, as well as allowed for peer mentoring and leadership development. The students were introduced to a variety of recipes that encouraged them to try new foods or combinations that they might not have previously considered.

At the end of the first day, 10 of the students noted that they tasted a new food and 17 of the students noted that they learned something new by the end of day one. After day two, twelve students discovered they liked the veggie dip recipe that they did not expect to like. Some of the students' favorite lessons were how to measure properly, how to use a meat thermometer, and how to chop parsley. At the completion of day three, the evaluations revealed that 100% of the students improved their score from their pre to post test. Of the 18 students that completed the course, 56% improved their scores on their post test by three or more questions. 100% of the students that completed Super Star Chef camp noted that they plan to make at least one behavior change and 78% of the students noted on their post evaluation that they intended to attempt all seven of the behavior changes listed on the evaluation which included items such as eating more fruits and vegetables, drinking more water and less soda, trying new foods and identifying healthy foods to improve their diets.

One parent noted on the Madison County Extension Office Facebook page, "Thank you so much! My kids enjoyed the week and learned so much! They came home and made dinner for our whole family!"

The lessons in Super Star Chef provided the students with hands-on experiences that not only impact them initially at the time they are learning it, such as developing stovetop or knife skills, but lend to intermediate and long-term outcomes as they continue to use their skills and experiences to build on later, as they grow and mature to gain independence in cooking on their own later in life.



FCS HIGHLIGHTS

- KEHA members spent more than 1500 hours dedicated to Extension and Community events.
- 74 adults attended food preservation workshops.

Cooperative Extension Service
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Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

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