

2022-2023

LOGAN COUNTY

REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

POST PANDEMIC RECONNECTION

After nearly two years of cancelled programs and events due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, Logan County Extension programs are rebounding and Agents are reconnecting with the populations we serve. We have seen a great increase in community participation and program attendance in the past six months.

OUR COUNTY IN AG NUMBERS

**276,309**

Acres of Farm Land in Logan County

**\$152,164,000**

Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold

**420**

New and Beginning Farmers



LOCAL MEAT MOVEMENT IGNITED WITH YOUTH LIVESTOCK SHOWS

2022 Youth Livestock Shows



In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, retail beef prices increased 18.7%. As a result, consumers began buying directly from producers. The annual Logan County 4-H & FFA Youth Market Steer Show, Sale, & Carcass Contest and the Logan County Youth Hog Show & Sale, continue to serve as leading examples of local direct to consumer beef and pork sales as well as great avenues for consumer education on the value of the meat they are purchasing.

The programs teach the full cycle of livestock production, responsibility of caring for and managing animals, animal nutrition, showmanship, and carcass quality. 53 Youth exhibitors from 3 to 21 years old invested countless hours in the raising of their livestock for the programs, learning valuable lessons every step of the way. The 23 Junior Cattlemen exhibited 32 steers averaging 1223 pounds on show day with an average sell price of \$3.97 per pound. The 30 Junior Pork Producers exhibited 30 market hogs that sold at the average of \$9.33 per pound.

In the final component of the beef program, the Carcass Contest, the participants are able to see how their production decisions impact the quality of the meat by how it grades. The meat from both programs is locally marketed and sold to community members, highlighting the health and financial benefits of locally raised beef and pork. One local bank purchased 4 hogs to donate directly back to the community through a partnership with local service organizations in efforts to feed local families in need. This act of service encouraged other community members to do the same. With their commitment to both programs, community members invested \$247,859.78 in the youth of Logan County.



HANDS-ON LIFE CYCLE LEARNING

One substantial bi-product of the pandemic was that in many instances the fun was taken away. With social distancing and limited access to things, we found ourselves in a world that seemed to be summed up as – CANCELLED. The fun was taken out of our lives and taken away from our youth. As schools were closed to visitors in 2021, Logan County Extension partnered with our Family Resource Youth Service Centers to try to bring some of that happiness and fun back to the classroom. We began garden projects at many schools. ***"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow." –Audrey Hepburn***

We wanted to give students something to be a part of and something to look forward to. We decided to take the gardens a step further and incorporate the study of Life Cycles. We had 16 butterfly habitats, 2 ladybug habitats, and 6 chick incubators in classrooms across the county. The teachers and administrators loved the hands-on activities that tied directly to their curriculum, but what they liked most was the happiness and excitement each project brought to the students.

In the spring of 2022, we were able to grow the project. All 9 schools in Logan County and Russellville were able to be a part of this project. We were able to place 22 chick incubators, 49 butterfly habitats, and 6 ladybug habitats in classrooms throughout both school systems. We were also able to place 44 hummingbird feeders on classroom windows. These were placed in preschool through high school classrooms including special education and FMD.

Teachers said students were able to use 4-H curriculum to enhance their learning about mitosis, meiosis, life cycles, Logan County agriculture production, communication, responsibility, entrepreneurship,

temperature, humidity, measuring, and pollinators. One high school biology teacher said, "We were able to have a discussion on the sanctity of life – growth and development brought about a deeper understanding of human development. Raising the chicks taught students the importance and responsibility of taking care of live organism."

Increased happiness is difficult to quantify, but the smiles on every student, teacher, and administrator's face at the school-wide butterfly release and as they held their baby chicks is enough to let us know that this project makes a difference and we want it to continue to grow in years to come!



PRESCHOOL PUMPKIN DAYS & SPRING FLING



Kindergarten Readiness

It is through our valued partnership with the Allen, Logan, and Simpson Community Early Childhood Council that we, the Logan County Cooperative Extension Service, seek to improve school readiness in Logan County by educating, encouraging, and engaging families. Kindergarten readiness means that each child enters school ready to engage in and benefit from early learning experiences that best promote the child's success. The kindergarten screener measures readiness in five important domains: academic/cognitive, language development, physical development, self-help, and social-emotional. According to the 2020 Early Childhood Profile, only 43.2% of Logan County children are ready to enter kindergarten. To address our school readiness areas of concern, the Logan County Cooperative Extension Service in cooperation with our community partners, provided two school readiness events called "Preschool Pumpkin Days" and "Preschool Spring Fling" for families of preschool aged children in Logan County.

These county-wide initiatives were held at the Logan County Extension Office by the Logan County Extension Agents in Family Consumer Sciences, 4-H and Youth Development and Agriculture as well as the Logan County SNAP-Ed Assistant. Other key community partners that were instrumental in making these events happen were family resource directors from all of the Logan County Schools and Stevenson Elementary School, the Logan County Library, the Logan County Health Department, and the Logan County Schools preschool teachers. We hosted two drive through events that provided 148 children with resources to address the areas of healthy eating, literacy, physical activity, self help skills, gross and fine motor skills and social skills. In addition to the resources for children, parents were provided information on school readiness as well as training components for each resource included in the goodie bag on how items could be used to teach and reinforce school readiness skills. Each station of the drive through event focused on one or more of the school readiness skills for Kentucky. 65% of parents who attended the event felt their child was not ready for kindergarten, according to a school readiness survey.



A SUCCESSFUL "LEAP" IN LOGAN COUNTY

According to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Kentucky has one of the highest percentages for pediatric obesity in the nation. Half of Kentucky's children in limited resource families are overweight or obese. According to the 2008 Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance System, 32.3% children ages 2-5 years in Kentucky are overweight or obese.

To address this issue of childhood obesity, the Logan County Nutrition Education Program assistant partnered together with the county preschool and kindergarten programs to provide the Literacy, Eating and Activity for Primary (LEAP) program in Logan

County. The Nutrition Education Program assistant was able to go into the classrooms at schools and read a story and provide a healthy snack related to the storybook for each child. The LEAP program was delivered to a total 191 of youth in Logan County. According to the Webneers evaluation tool for Nutrition Education Program students improved in: identifying food groups by 51 %, and 25 % of students improved on knowing when to wash their hands before eating. Several of the students indicated that they were tasting the provided foods for the first time. All students also learned the importance of taking a "hello bite" and by the end of the program indicated understanding of what that was. Teachers indicated much appreciation for coming and sharing the books and healthy snacks with the students.

**NEP ASSISTANT, PAIGE
ALEXANDER, UTILIZED ZOOM
VIDEO CONFERENCES TO
CONNECT WITH STUDENTS
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.**



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