

Report to the People

Leslie County • 2023

UK Cooperative
Extension Service



Leslie County Extension Homemakers State Cultural Arts Entries

Leslie County Extension Homemakers Cultural Arts – State Meeting

The Kentucky Extension Homemaker's Association held their annual state meeting, May 8th - 11th at the Crowne Plaza in Louisville, Ky. There were over 700 statewide cultural arts entries. Leslie County Homemakers were well represented having 27 entries submitted as KEHA State Cultural Arts Exhibits.

CONGRATULATIONS Leslie County Homemakers for receiving 10 blue ribbons and 1 purple ribbon! Special thanks are extended to homemakers for their continued participation in our cultural arts program and we look forward to seeing new cultural arts entries this Fall during our local 2023 Mary Breckinridge Festival! Make plans to submit your cultural arts for exhibit, contact Vicki Boggs at (606) 672-2154 or vicki.boggs@uky.edu for more information.

For More Information, Please Contact us at:

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Come Sew with Us Annual Program

The Kentucky Master Clothing Volunteer Program is an outgrowth of volunteer interest and concern for a longtime Extension program (sewing). Quicksand Area in our East Kentucky Region currently has nine active Master Clothing Volunteers. Master Clothing Volunteers in each county work closely with their Extension Agents planning and teaching a variety of sewing activities. Annually, Quicksand Area Master Clothing Volunteers prepare and teach Come Sew with Us, a sewing program offered to all Quicksand Area clientele. 2023 Come Sew with Us was held during June at Perry and Wolfe County Extension Offices. Each Master Clothing Volunteer planned, prepared and taught 3 sessions at each location supported by their FCS Agents.

Evaluations revealed the following:

- 89% of participants learned a new skill taught during Come Sew with Us
- 90% indicated they plan to use their new skills at home
- 30% indicated they will use the skill learned to make items to sell
- 80% said they would like to see more sewing programs offered

Our nine Quicksand Area Master Clothing Volunteers reported on their yearly report form the following data totals:

- Total Contacts: 2,351
- Teaching and Preparation hours: 767

- Continuing Education hours: 543

- Leadership and Service hours: 117

Volunteer service hours have an approximate value of \$30.00 per hour. Quicksand Area Master Clothing Volunteers have contributed volunteer services valued at \$42,810.00 for their Cooperative Extension Service communities and clientele.

Leslie County Beekeepers

It is estimated that the honeybee's annual contribution to the United States economy is at least \$15 billion. Beyond the profitable products and byproducts harvested directly from honeybee colonies such as honey, wax, propolis, and royal jelly, about one-third of total crop production in the U.S. are dependent upon these prolific pollinators for their survival and prosperity. According to the most recent data from the U.S Department of Agriculture, honeybees' health took a major decline in 2022. Beekeepers lost about 45% of their managed honeybee colonies. Kentucky saw a 9% decrease which is the 12th biggest loss nationally. Leslie County Extension Ag and 4-H are doing their part to try and save these pollinators and bring local beekeepers together by starting beekeeping clubs for youth and adults. Leslie County is one of few counties in Kentucky that did not have their very own bee club. Many participants were having to travel outside the county to find up-to-date information and techniques in modern day beekeeping. One participant said "I had no idea that beekeeping had changed so much from when I was a kid. We kept them in hollow logs and had to destroy the colonies to harvest the honey. I now can keep my colonies producing longer than I ever could before." Bee Club meetings are held once a month at the Leslie County extension office. Instruction is provided from various extension speakers and community volunteers. Topics included How to Begin Beekeeping, Summertime Management, Honey Extraction Demonstration, Integrated Pest Management, Hive Winterization and Eating Healthy with

Honey Recipes. To date 100% of participants said they have learned something new and 60% said they have applied techniques they've learned to their bee colonies with success. 50 new bee colonies have been established in Leslie County introducing more than a million individual pollinators to benefit the producers of Leslie County.



Leslie County Bee Ambassador

4-H Chicken Incubation

Chick Incubation is a 21-day process and requires fertilized chicken eggs, an egg incubator to help control temperature, humidity and egg turning. The incubator replicates the mother hen's environment with a warm moist environment for the rest of the gestation period for the chick. Chick Incubation is an excellent way to teach youth about nature, responsibility, science, caring for animals and life cycles.

2023 Chick Incubation was offered weekly to 3rd grade classes and the Functional Mental Disability classroom at Leslie County High School. 150 youth participated in this project.

Youth learned about embryology, habitats, parts of an egg, egg nutrition, different types of breeds, the process of incubation/important factors for incubating successfully, how to care for the eggs inside incubators, hatching predictions using the candling method and how to care for the chicks after hatching.

Once chicks hatched, they were brought back to Leslie County Extension where they waited for their new homes. Youth who had established flocks at home were given the option to adopt the baby chicks. The rest were sold as a 4-H Fundraiser!

- 100% of students learned about the life cycle of a chicken.
- 98% of youth learned about the nutrition of eggs and how they are full of protein.

Teachers and other school staff always look forward to Chick Incubation and visit the baby chicks often. A local 3rd grade teacher said, "I look forward to the chick incubation project every year! My students are always so intrigued and engaged in the process. They love learning about the chick life cycle and taking responsibility for checking the incubator each day. Once they hatch, we always enjoy watching how they interact and reading them a story before they go to their new homes."



Candling the Egg



Observing the newly hatch chicks



Fun with Messy Games at 4-H Camp

4-H Summer Residential Camp

Leslie County takes pride in promoting 4-H camp to our community. By attending camp, youth gain multiple benefits by participating in new activities such as experiencing leadership/teamwork, character building, self-esteem, decision-making skills, independence, and cleanliness.

30 youth attended JM Feltner 4-H Camp. According to data USA, 34.6% of the population for whom poverty status is determined in Leslie County, KY (3.52k out of 10.2k people) live below the poverty line, a number that is higher than the national average of 12.6%. All schools in Leslie County qualify for the national free lunch program. These statistics alone provide barriers for youth in Leslie County. It is important for us to address these challenges and do everything possible to create a safe positive experience for them to grow. Leslie County 4-H continued to have great fundraising efforts and raised money throughout the year to make camp and other 4-H opportunities possible.

As a result of attending 4-H camp:

- 100% of youth learned a new skill and experienced hands-on learning,
- 100% enjoyed their camp experience and plan to attend next year,

It Starts With Us.

***Healthy Families. Healthy Homes.
Healthy Communities.***



Cooking Through the Calendar

Cooking Through the Calendar is a monthly program that teaches participants hands-on cooking.

Cooking through the Calendar is supported by the Kentucky Nutrition Education Program (KYNEP), which is administered by the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service. The goals of both organizations are to educate families and individuals and to help them plan nutritious meals on a limited budget, acquire safe food handling practices, improve food preparation skills and change behavior necessary to have a healthy lifestyle. A local partner provided us \$20.00 grocery gift cards to each participant as promotional incentives for our program.



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