

REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

Warren County • 2023



Warren County Extension Office (left to right): Joanna Coles, Agriculture & Natural Resources; Kristi Shive, Family & Consumer Sciences; Sherry Taylor, Staff Assistant; Olivia Blount, Staff Assistant; Janet Turley, 4-H Youth Development; Kristin Hildabrand, Horticulture; Julie Brown, 4-H Youth Development; Sara Givens, Staff Assistant.

Extension Volunteers Contribute to the Community



Extension greatly values volunteers who share their knowledge, skills, time, and resources to help others make informed decisions. Local volunteers significantly impact families and communities, enabling Extension to reach diverse audiences and assist vulnerable populations with limited access to services.

- 211 4-H volunteers have provided **6,595 hours** to Warren County 4-H youth
- 24 Master Gardeners volunteers have given back **300 hours** to the community
- **9,583 hours** have been given by the Warren County Homemakers for volunteering for Extension activities or events
- 56 agriculture volunteers have provided **263 hours** in their leadership roles across the county

Extension Master Gardener Volunteers working on the Certified Monarch Butterfly Waystation.

Total Number of Volunteer Hours: 16,741

Kentucky Value of Each Volunteer Hour: \$26.85

\$\$\$ to Community: \$449,495.85

Agriculture & Natural Resources

- CAIP funds distributed—County Agriculture Incentive Program funds totaling \$206,562 were distributed to Warren County farmers through Ag Development fund cost-share.
- 120 farmers increased profits or reduced expenses because of extension programming.
- Worked with 30 farm businesses to expand or create new market opportunities.
- 1500 individuals increased knowledge of water quality and conservation. 35 people implemented one or more best practices for soil/water conservation.
- 2500 individuals increased agriculture awareness through Extension programming.
- 39 educational programs for farmers were offered to increase knowledge and improve management practices.



Participants learn about pesticide aerial application using drones.

Warren Co. Youth Received \$45,000 to Fund Agriculture Projects



A youth completing their greenhouse.

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund (KADF) administers a Youth Agriculture Incentives Program (YAIP), to provide 50-50 cost share support to youth actively engaged in agriculture education activities. For the past 2 years, the Warren County 4-H Council has been an administrator for this

program. In the two years of the program, 57 Warren County youth (4-H and FFA) have received \$45,000 in funding. The average payout was \$780/person with many receiving as much as \$1,000. Projects included expanding breeding herd and market livestock projects, purchasing equipment including gates, panels, and show equipment, and electricity to poultry and greenhouses. Several bought greenhouses and built chicken coops. One recipient said, "There are so many learning experiences that agriculture opportunities can teach you. Showing has taught me much about hard work and dedication. Having my own heifers has helped me to develop lifelong skills that are needed in the real world". In 2024, there will be \$30,000 to distribute.

Work-Life Balance Workshop

Increased levels of job stress and other demands of life have been associated with increased rates of heart attack, hypertension, and other disorders. Stress can also weaken the immune system, affect mental health, and increase chances of developing anxiety, depression, or insomnia.

Kristi Shive, Warren County Family and Consumer Sciences Science, delivered a workshop on Work-Life Balance. The session explored the relationship between productivity, work-life balance, and workplace burnout. Participants also examined personal and professional self-care strategies. The workshop taught approaches for prioritizing various roles and responsibilities, as well as steps to take when feeling overwhelmed. The workshop provided practical strategies that participants could



Learning to balance work and life can be challenging but achievable.

implement immediately when facing stress and juggling various roles and responsibilities. 100% of program participants reported that they plan to practice personal and professional self-care and to use tools from the lesson because of the program.

Warren Co. Extension Master Gardener Program

Extension Master Gardeners are a valued volunteer group to the Warren County Extension Service and the community. Currently, 15 Master Gardener volunteers in Warren County have kept their certifications up to date by maintaining 20 hours of volunteer service and 10 hours of continuing education credits annually.

In Warren County, Extension Master Gardener Volunteers are collaborating with these community garden spaces: Barren River Area Safe Space (BRASS) Memorial Gardens, Certified Monarch Waystation Habitat, Lost River Cave Native Meadow Restoration Project, Lost River Cave Charlie Miller Butterfly Habitat, and Hospice Cut Flower Garden.



Master Gardeners working on the Certified Monarch Waystation Habitat.

Providing Ag & Horticulture Services to the Community



A plant sample showing aphids and azalea bug which was identified for the client.

- 340 soil test consultations with homeowners, commercial growers and farmers about maximizing yield potential and managing input costs.
- 378 plant disease diagnostics services for homeowners, commercial growers and farmers to identify the issue or disease and develop a strategy for disease control.
- 223 weed and insect identification services to identify the pest and develop a strategy to eliminate the pest if necessary.
- 1028 individual client consultations about farming, commercial horticulture production and management.

Hook & Cook

Hook and Cook was an educational series made up of three classes that covered the basics of fishing, meat preparation, and cooking. Participants learned everything from tying a proper fishing knot to preparing fish for cooking and storage, along with other useful skills. Participants were taught basic skills necessary to harvest their own fish and where to find a fishing hole near them. The first two classes took place at the Warren County Cooperative Extension Office. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife taught the fishing education portion while Kristi Shive taught food preparation and recipe demonstrations. The final class took place at Basil Griffin Park where hands-on fishing took place.



Participants fishing at Basil Griffin Park.

100 % of participants reported an increase in knowledge and confidence of fishing and harvesting local meat. 100 % of participants plan to continue fishing in Warren County and other fishing holes in Kentucky.

4-H Builds Effective Leaders

Avery Cole is a shining example of how 4-H can shape leaders to be impactful communicators and effective leaders. After 8 years of 4-H involvement, Avery achieved two of the highest honors in 4-H-- Emerald Achievement and State 4-H Vice-President. She learned as a 9-year-old speech contestant that communications skills were vital to succeed and therefore set goals to hone those skills. She gained valuable leadership skills by starting a homeless foundation, "Cold Hands Warm Hearts". She also started, "4 the Love of Horses", which brings horses



Avery at the Capitol for Farmers Appreciation Day.

and 4-H'ers together for hands-on learning. As State 4-H Vice-President, she visits and teaches other 4-H members around the Commonwealth. In relation to her Emerald interview, Avery stated, "I truly understood how much I gained from 4-H and how it challenged me to implement all the skills I learned in 4-H, it also instilled in me a greater sense of leadership and professionalism".

Growing Commercial Cut Flower Farms in Kentucky

The Warren County horticulture extension agent has worked closely with commercial cut flower growers to address the needs of Kentucky's rapidly increasing cut flower industry. In the last four years, our outreach efforts specific to this industry segment have provided:

- direct promotion of 147 KY farms, increasing their visibility to customers
- an online tool for customers to find KY-cut flower farms
- live cut flower production and marketing education to almost 1200 established and pre-commercial growers
- recorded content to nearly 11,860 viewers on cut flower production and marketing topics
- one-on-one support to 142 cut flower operations in Kentucky



SOKY Floral Exchange Field Day

In September 2023, a field day was hosted at the Southern Kentucky Floral Exchange, where cut flower growers from the Southern Kentucky area could tour and consider selling to a wholesale market. 30+ interested growers attended to learn more about potentially growing to sell more volume and expand their operations.

Marketing & Community Outreach Efforts

The Warren County Extension Service Agents work to provide educational programming and marketing efforts through various outlets to reach a growing and diverse population in the area. For more information, you can view the complete list of community outreach efforts provided by the agents.

Farm & Home Show -

Daily 5 minute television programming featuring educational topics about farms, gardens, home, families & youth that airs on WBKO, YouTube & Facebook and reaches 15,000 households.



Newsletters -

Educational Content was delivered to 5700 mailboxes quarterly and full of timely educational agriculture, family & consumer science, 4-H, and horticulture topics.



Ag Connections - Weekly 30 minute radio program delivering educational topics on all things agriculture that airs on 104.1 WKCT FM and reaches 2500 listeners.

Get the Scoop - Daily 5 minute radio show delivering research based information about farm & garden that airs on WGGC 95.1 FM that reaches 15,000 people.

The Sunshine Gardening Podcast - Monthly podcast episode shines the light on various gardening topics in Kentucky. Podcast is available on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, and Spotify with 7,389 total show listens.



Social Media - Warren County Extension delivers current educational content on agriculture, family & consumer science, horticulture, and 4-H topics. Last year, our social media efforts reached 502,567 visitors/interactions through Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, blog & website.



Newsletter Subscribers -

- *Warren Co. Agriculture:* 1811
- *Horticulture Happenings:* 1375
- *Warren Co. 4-H:* 350
- *Warren Co. Homemaker Horizons:* 108



Follow Us at Our Socials



Facebook:

/warrencoag
/warrencounty4H
/livingwellwarren
/warrencountynep



X: @warrencountyag



TV: Farm & Home Show- ~ 5:15am
abc WBKO 13



WordPress:

warrencountyagriculture.com



Website: warren.ca.uky.edu
warrencountyextension.com



Instagram: @warrencoag

@livingwell_warrenco



Radio:

WGGC 95.1 FM- M-F @ 5am
104.1 WKCT FM- Tues. @ 8:30am



YouTube: CES Warren

Warren County Agriculture



Podcast: The Sunshine Gardening

For More Information, Please Contact us at:

Warren County Extension Office

(270) 842-1681 • <https://warren.ca.uky.edu>

5162 Russellville Rd., Bowling Green, KY 42101

Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating. Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.