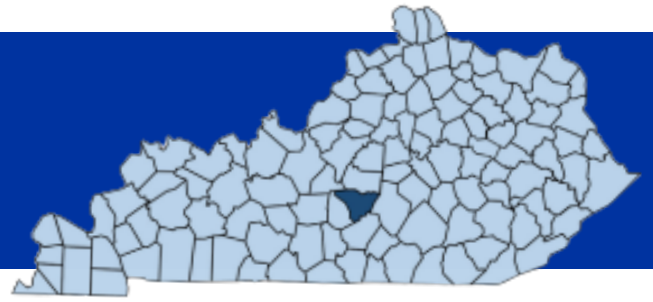




Taylor County Extension Office

College of Agriculture, Food and Environment



Left to right: Kimberly Thomas, Carolyn Morris, Pat Hardesty, Elizabeth Burton, Angela Freeman, Gerald Gribbins, Angela Rodgers and Kara Back

REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

The Taylor County Extension Service was able to navigate strict COVID Meeting Guidelines, facilitating 426 meetings and serving 6914 clientele.



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Agriculture and Natural Resources

In Taylor County, the December 11, 2021 and January 1, 2022 tornados affected approximately 110 homes and loss of one life as it swept across the state. Some homes were completely gone, barns destroyed or damaged and livestock running loose as fences were taken by the tornados.

After several calls from leaders within the county and a promise of front money to purchase emergency fencing supplies and a request to help from farm organizations across the state, the Taylor County Extension Office became the distribution point for donated agriculture supplies and cash donations with the assistance of many leaders, local ag. dealers and neighboring agriculture agents.

Administered the distribution of \$194,525 in cash donations and over \$87,056 in agriculture supplies to farmers affected by tornadoes.

The Taylor County Extension Service was to oversee the agriculture disaster relief and volunteers, but the volunteer list was so extensive that two volunteer leaders were asked to oversee the massive list of volunteers. The community came together and these leaders coordinated thousands of volunteers who were involved in clean up, rebuild and served food to those families affected and to volunteers helping.

The effects of these tornadoes will be long lasting not only financially but also mentally and emotionally. The Taylor County Extension Office held a Raising Hope picnic for the families and those affected by the tornadoes. This event featured two speakers that addressed mental health concerns by the families to let them know its okay to have those feelings and there is help available.

As a result of the community effort, the Taylor County Extension Service was a nominee for the Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year award and the Everette Lee Citizens of the Year award was presented to the agriculture agent.



Taylor County Master Gardeners total 894 volunteer hours.

In January 2022, the Taylor County Horticulture Agent taught her second group of Master Gardeners. It began on January 13th and met for 18 weeks. This program met at night because there were several requests for it to occur after 5:00 p.m. Discussion, hands on activities, and field trips were the focus for this program. Surveys received upon completion of the course showed 100% of the participants increased their knowledge within horticulture.

The Horticulture Agent saw interest was being shown for the program and offered the program again for the 2023 season. This brings the total number of master gardeners from 13 to 21. To be a Master Gardener one must not only complete the required course work, but volunteer within their community also.

Taylor County Master Gardeners have assisted with the pollinator plots at Campbellsville University, planted flowers on Main Street, assisted/taught classes for children at the local Farmers' Market Festivals, assisted with the 4-H horticulture fair workshops, assisted/taught 4-H horticulture monthly classes, renovated the Taylor County Library raised beds, built a new demonstration raised bed at the Extension Office, cared for the Homemakers' flower mound at a local park, pruned trees at Trace Pittman Walking Trail, assisted with Christmas wreath class, assisted/taught adult horticulture monthly programs, and many more projects. The total volunteer hours for the Taylor County Master Gardeners volunteers have completed 894 hours.

The Horticulture Agent will offer another Master Gardener class next year both during the day and evening to allow more people to attend. She will continue to make improvements to the program structure to better serve the horticulture education needs in Taylor County.



4-H Youth Development

During the COVID-19 global pandemic and with the absence of a 4-H Agent, the Cloverbud program quickly dwindled over the last couple years in Taylor County. The 4-H Cloverbud program allows children between the ages of 5-8 years old an opportunity to participate in a noncompetitive, educational setting and with age-appropriate activities.

In January 2022 the Cloverbud program started back in Taylor County with monthly meetings. At its initial comeback meeting, 15 Cloverbud and parents learned about wild songbirds and made pinecone birdfeeders. This was many of the families first experience with Extension and 4-H. February meeting continued the momentum and the group quickly outgrew the project room it was hosted in. Twenty-two Cloverbuds and parents attended, including returning families from the January meeting and as well new families. The March meeting continued this energy, seeing mostly returning families.

The Cloverbud program has also helped to create a united force with the Taylor County 4-H program. At the March 2022 meeting of Cloverbuds, volunteers and 4-H'ers from the Taylor County 4-H Goat Club were able to introduce the Cloverbuds to the livestock portion of 4-H. The 4-H'ers presented on what they do in their club and were able to bring a couple goats and a rabbit for the Cloverbuds to see and learn about.

With growth in program, the Cloverbud program has expanded the reach of the Taylor County Extension Office, introducing new families to 4-H and bringing in first time clients to Extension.



Family & Consumer Science

The Taylor County Extension Homemakers spent the month of September raising money for the University of Kentucky's Ovarian Cancer Research. They placed flamingos in yards for a monetary fee. They took 86 orders and placed 1311 flamingos at 74 homes and 13 businesses to raise \$5600. Because of their efforts, they won the 1st place award at the KEHA State Meeting for the county with the most money donated to Ovarian Cancer Research.

Another project the Taylor County Extension Homemakers are proud to be a part of is the Blankets of Love. The homemakers get together and make no-sew blankets for the patients at the Cancer Center at Taylor County Regional Hospital. This year we conducted 4 Blankets of Love workshops and donated 21 blankets to the Cancer Center.





Nutrition Education

The Nutrition Education Assistant was able to participate in two summer programs for children's enrichment, due to lowering of COVID restrictions. The first was summer school June 6 - 17 with Taylor County Primary and Intermediate 21st Century program. Classes were held three days each of two weeks, with 20 students in attendance and 14 completing entry and exit surveys, all 3rd through 5th grade. The students learned how to properly cut fruits and vegetables for salads and salsa, measure dry ingredients for master mix, and made a number of nutritious snacks. 100% of students improved in one or more core area.

From July 18 - 21, the Nutrition Education Assistant had the opportunity to partner with Campbellsville University for Kids College cooking classes. The teacher planned seasonal cooking for each of the four days, beginning with Spring and ending with Winter, stressing fruits and vegetables grown and eaten in each season. The Nutrition Assistant collaborated with recipes, provided foods for one recipe each day, and helped teach proper knife skills and measuring procedures. Twenty-two children grades 1st - 8th participated.

3rd-5th grade responses included 77% improving in one or more and 62% improving two or more knowledge or skills necessary to choose foods consistent with dietary guidelines. 58% improved in one or more area of food safety. 100% improved in one or more core area.

Kindergarten - 2nd graders say 25% improvement in physical activity practices. 50% improved two or more skills in choosing foods, with 50% improving in one or more core area.

Comments from children in both groups were positive, including, **"This is my favorite class."** and **"I love cooking. This has been so much fun."**

100% of children improved their abilities to choose foods in one or more area, with 67% in three or more areas. 67% of children improved safe food handling practices. 58% improved their physical activity practices.

- 17,849** Number of people impacted by Advisory Councils, community organizations, and other volunteers including County Ag Investment Program (CAIP), Chamber of Commerce Ag Committee, farm bureau, county fairs, festivals, etc.
- 14,481** Number of hours Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association members volunteered in community.
- 399** Number of youth who were educated on health and well-being through 4-H programs.
- 367** The number of hours of youth or adult volunteer related education provided in the county.
- 123** Number of people who collected soil samples for testing.
- 114** Number of people who used Extension resources to identify plants or weeds.
- 73** Number of people who gained knowledge of forage production, management and/or profitability which could include species, best management practices for species, forage harvest and storage, pasture renovation.
- 38** Number of people who increased knowledge of farm health and safety practices.



Homemaker Jackie Thomas leads 4-H Cooking Lesson during Fair Project Day Camp

SERVICES OFFERED THROUGH YOUR TAYLOR COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

- Plant Disease Identification and Control Recommendations
- Insect Identification and Control Recommendations
- Weed Identification and Control Recommendations
- Plant Identification
- Soil Testing
- Forage Analysis
- Rations Balanced
- Wildlife Control Recommendations
- Mosquito Eradication
- Home & Farm Visits
- BQA Certifications
- PQA Certifications
- Pesticide Certifications
- Pressure Canner Gauges Checked
- Food Preservation Recommendations
- Home Base Processing, Micro-processing Certification & PBPT (Produce Best Practices Training)
- Master Clothing Volunteer Program
- Master Food Volunteer Program
- Programs focusing on the following life skills: Making Healthy Lifestyle Choices, Nurturing Families, Embracing Life as You Age, Securing Financial Stability, Promoting Healthy Homes & Community; Accessing Nutritious Foods, Empowering Community Leaders
- Nutrition Education Classes
- 4-H Programs including in-school clubs, after-school programs, 4-H summer camp, day camps and workshops. Special interest groups offered are livestock judging, dairy project, sewing, cooking, crafts, robotics, science and engineering.
- 4-H Clubs offered include Art, Cloverbuds (Youth Ages 5-8), Archery, Art, Bee Club, Livestock, Horticulture and Shooting Sports.
- Master Gardener Program

