

REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

Harlan County 2022

DID YOU KNOW:

Harlan County has the highest natural point in Kentucky, Black Mountain (4,145 feet).



Website: harlan.ca.uky.edu



Facebook: @HarlanCountyCES

For More Information, Please contact us at:

Harlan County Extension Office—(606) 573-4464—Harlan.ext@uky.edu
519 South Main Street, Harlan, KY 40831

Citizen Science Project

During the summer of 2022, the Harlan County Extension Office, in conjunction with the University of Kentucky Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, worked with seven individuals or families to conduct a Citizen Science Project. The goal of the project was to survey multiple areas across Harlan County and detect if there was a presence of two invasive insects. The participants were provided traps for Spongy Moths and habitat information for the Spotted Lantern Fly. These species have an affect on our landscape, timber, and fruit production because they will feed on the bark, leaves, and fruit. Being watchful for these potential pest will allow landowners to manage them in a timely manner. Participants placed traps across the county in multiple locations and elevations to detect if there were Spongy Moths and also recorded certain habitats that are favorable for the Spotted Lantern Fly. After the two month survey, participants removed the traps and returned them to the ANR Agent. Fortunately, the two species were not found within the county at the time of the survey. Every participant stated they learned about both species and their effects and each are willing to participate in future Citizen Science Projects.

Trap set to check for Spongy Moths



Disaster Preparedness

Being prepared for life's disasters can help get us thru many storms.

During Preparedness Month in September, Harlan County Extension Service used social media to provide a weekly "Preparedness Thursday." Each week, preparedness tips were shared, such as Building a Three Day Kit and Making A Disaster Plan. The Extension Service also partnered with Harlan County Emergency Management and the National Weather Service to provide additional educational opportunities. Each participant learned the basic steps to create a Disaster Plan and Kit and then went home to create that kit. Every participant was also SKYWARN Certified by the National Weather Service, allowing them to be more severe weather aware.

During and following disasters communications can be broken. The Harlan County Extension Service helped a group of amateur radio operators to create the Harlan County Amateur Radio Emergency Service. These licensed radio operators went thru monthly trainings and exercises to practice skills in the event they are called upon to use their amateur radio equipment to establish communications if regular communications fail following a disaster. These operators will be ready once they are called upon to help emergency management re-establish a temporary communications line.

Students participating in a disaster plan of action



4-H Environmental Camp

Findings from the PRIDE campaign indicated students in Harlan County were unaware of the effects of pollution and erosion on the environment and ways of correcting the problem. Upon the recommendation of the 4-H and Extension Councils, the one day program turned into a three day Environmental Camp targeting every 4th grader in Harlan County public and private schools. With the cooperation of many agencies, over 400 students, volunteers, presenters, and teachers attended the three-day event at Martins Fork Lake. For the past 24 years, the Harlan County 4-H Environment Camp has been a driving force in our district for counties establishing their own Environmental Camps. Students learned the impact of Martins Fork Lake and Dam for tourism, recreation, and flood control, the effects of pollution and erosion on natural resources, and recycling. Surveys collected at the end of each session indicated over 80 percent of students gained new knowledge of pollution and erosion on their community's natural resources; how they could help, how to recycle in their homes, and the impact of Martin's Fork Lake and Dam for flood control in their communities. Fifty percent of students indicated they had never seen the Dam before camp.

Students learning the importance of recycling



4-H Reality Store

Harlan County 4-H and AG Agents in collaboration with the Challenge Academy and the Harlan County Family Resource Center conducted the 25th Annual 2 day 4-H Reality Store in November at the Extension Depot to provide youth skills, education and a hands-on approach to career choices and financial management. Approximately 450 9th grade students attended from Harlan County High School and the Challenge Academy. Approximately seventy volunteers from businesses, resource centers, governmental agencies, retired teachers and other organizations made the event successful. Participants were given careers based on their GPA with a salary to match. Students drew for family size of 0-4 children and were challenged to budget their finances to make ends meet. Community business, resource leaders and extension staff manned 21 booths representing banks, tax agencies, grocery stores, clothing stores, insurance agencies, entertainment services, housing, transportation, health and beauty needs, charities, childcare agencies, medical services, utility companies, supplementary income sources, furniture stores and more. Pre and post evaluation results showed:

- 90% of students will delay having children in their marriages.
- 95% stated grades were now more important. One student said, "I'm not having kids. They cost too much, and I'm going to make better grades."

Learning how to budget at Reality Store



Junior Homemakers Program

In 2022, the Harlan County Extension Office created the Junior Homemakers Program. This program, like traditional and specialty homemaker clubs, is geared toward youth. Those in the Junior Homemaker Program have participated in food preparation and creative arts. The Junior Homemakers also participated in a community service project where they worked with a local nursing home to present gifts to residents.

Homemaker clubs have continued to thrive under the leadership of the Harlan County Extension Homemaker Council and staff of the Harlan County Extension Office. The Council gives to the community thru service projects, including the ovarian cancer research project at the University of Kentucky.

Homemaker Council Members



Extension At a Glance

- **24** Individuals reporting improved knowledge regarding disaster preparedness
- **408** Citizens increased knowledge on forest health, management and utilization. Programs included Forestry Citizen Science Program, Maple Syrup and Woodland Education.
- **156** Beekeepers increased their knowledge on establishing and maintaining hives, honey production, and marketing
- **474** Youth participated in education related to family and consumer science
- **412** Youth and adults engaged in volunteer service in their communities through the 4-H program
- **62** Youth and adults have participated in a community-based service project
- **308** Youth were educated on health and well-being through 4-H programs

**University of Kentucky
Cooperative Extension**
S-107 Ag Science Center North
Lexington, KY 40546-0091
(859) 257-4302

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