



Report to the People 2024



Wayne County Cooperative Extension Service



Wayne County Cooperative Extension Staff

Front Row (L.-R.) ~ Glen Roberts, Terry Bertram, Seth Hart, Danny Adams, & Jeff Sutton

***Back Row (L.-R.) ~ Bethany Barrier, Joy McGinnis, Jerrena Chaplin, Sherry Coffey,
Vicki McDonald, Gaye Hutchison, & Toni Humble ~ Not pictured Debbie Shepherd, FCS***

UK Extension

We improve the lives of Kentuckians by:

- **Strengthening Kentucky's farms, food systems and natural resources through innovative research, education and collaboration to improve profitability and sustainability.**
- **Building the health and well-being of Kentuckians – physically, mentally and economically – to improve quality of life and ensure bright futures for all.**
- **Engaging communities to build vibrant economies by connecting businesses and people with Extension.**

Wayne County, Kentucky, 4-H Ambassadors Beyond Ready to Serve

When Toni Humble, Wayne County Extension 4-H Agent, learned that National Guard members from her community had orders to deploy, she called together her 4-H Ambassadors and they pulled together to support the service members before, after, and during deployment.

National Guard Unit B Battery 1/623d BN FA (HIMARS) in Monticello, Kentucky includes men and women from 37 Kentucky counties and one additional soldier from both Georgia and Ohio. The unit planned for a year's deployment and 4-H was with the group each step of the way.

During Soldier Family Readiness Group meetings, 4-H provided assistance with serving meals, providing activities for kids, and resources for the soldiers and the family. Prior to deployment, they worked with each service member to record a bedtime story video and create soldier pillows for their children and provided other items including journals, letters of support, contact information, and other resources.

The 4-H'ers were part of the team implementing the deployment ceremony handing out flags and taking family photos. While the unit served in the Southeast Asia region, monthly newsletters were sent to families and additional support given as needed. And when the troops came home, 4-H was back with welcome bags, signs, and support. The ambassadors shared that the impact of working on the project made a tremendous difference to them as well. While they were beyond ready to lead and serve, they were also changed by the experience.



Toni Humble

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4-H Youth Development

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Wayne County 4-H



Kentucky National Guard Battalion B during their deployment.



Toni Humble was presented with award plaques.

Wayne County 4-H Agent Toni Humble Recognition

It was a big year for Wayne Co. 4-H Agent Toni Humble! She was recognized by the Kentucky Association of Extension 4-H Agents and received the following awards: 4-H Military Partnership Excellence in Programming, Excellence in Educational Technology, Greg Yost Youth In Leadership Award and KAE4-HA Outstanding Program. In addition, Wayne Co 4-H was awarded by the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents for being the First Place National Winner in 4-H Military Partnership Excellence in Programming.

Way to go Mrs. Toni! We are proud of you!

Toni Humble was presented with award plaques.

4-H Shooting Sports Program

The 4-H Shooting Sports Program provides participants with a safe environment to explore their sparks, share a sense of belonging, and form healthy relationships with caring adult mentors.

Enrolled youth have opportunities to participate through competitions and teen leadership roles at not only the county level but the statewide level.

Wayne County had several 4-H State Competition Winners for the 2024 year. Brody Shelton and Wesley Denney were state champions in every discipline of the 15-18 year old division.



Brody Shelton & Wesley Denney received trophies during the 4-H Archery State Competition.

WHAAMM Leadership (Wayne Homemaker Active Association Membership Movement)

Strong leadership skills are important for a vital Extension Homemaker and Family & Consumer Sciences Extension program. These learned leadership skills also benefit other community organizations in which members participate. Wayne County Extension Homemakers participated in Officer and Leadership Events and currently have 45 members serving in officer positions (20 additional leaders in four years). Participants were introduced to skills and activities to help them reconnect, develop purposeful club meetings, strengthen leadership skills, and officer and membership recruitment. Participants reported feeling more connected to their fellow Extension Homemakers and the Extension Office Staff and Agent. They also reported planning to utilize learned skills within their individual clubs. A renewed excitement for becoming **ACTIVELY** involved has been created within leadership and members. All participants reported taking activities and skills back to their club membership. An increase in new membership has resulted. Wayne County Extension Homemakers also serve on the area level (Lake Cumberland Area Treasurer) and KEHA State level with assigned tasks at the State meeting.

Extension Homemakers have four major initiatives: Leadership Development, Educational Opportunities, Community Service, and Positive Fellowship Engagement. They are actively involved and engaged in these initiatives.

Wayne County Extension Homemakers recorded 21,216 volunteer hours last year in service of our community. They sponsor Blessing Boxes with food items, the Bookcases at the Extension office with free books and activities, support our local FCCLA and vocational students, 4H camp scholarships, hygiene backpacks for middle school students, items for local animal shelter, items for the House of Blessings, Nursing Home and homebound care packages. They sponsor and work Blood Drives and many additional community needs. They are highly active and vital as Wayne County Community Leaders and Volunteers.



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Extension Family and
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These skills are not only vital to the growth and strength of the Wayne County Extension Homemakers and the Family & Consumer Sciences program they expand outward for service in other community organizations.

The Wayne County Extension Homemakers strive to make our community and world a better place. We encourage anyone with an interest in being active in Wayne County Extension Homemakers to contact our office.



**Wayne County
Extension Homemakers
attended the 2024
Lake Cumberland Area
Annual Meeting.**

2024 Volunteer Service Hours
Extension 2064.75
KEHA 524.75
Community 14286.25
Personal 4340.25
TOTAL 21,216

**Debbie Shepherd, FCS Agent,
Receives Awards**

Debbie Shepherd, Wayne County FCS Agent, received the Distinguished Service Award which recognizes Extension FCS Educators for leadership, outstanding programs, and personal and professional growth. Debbie’s 29 years of FCS programming in several counties have a foundation in leadership development which she has cultivated over the years. Along with Dylan Gentry and the FCS Team, she received First Place in the Excellence in Teamwork Award which promotes and recognizes outstanding Extension programs conducted by multi-disciplinary teams that demonstrate effective performance and significant results. In addition, she was presented with the ESP KY Alpha Kappa Chapter, ESP Leads, Cohort Two, 2022-2024 Award and Community Partnership Award.

Congratulations Debbie!



**Debbie Messenger,
Cumberland County FCS Agent
& Christy Stearns,
Clinton County FCS Agent
presented Debbie Shepherd
with the ESP
KY Alpha Kappa Chapter
Award.**

Weed Barrier Retrieval System in Plasticulture

We use landscape fabric between the rows of plastic in the Wayne County School Garden as a weed barrier on vining crops and so the VoAg students that work in the garden won't track mud back to their classroom.

We purchase the better quality fabric and use it for several growing seasons. We roll the fabric up on 2" diameter schedule 40 PVC pipe noting on the pipe the length or lengths of the fabric rolled up on it. This helps with the handling and storage of the fabric and it is ready to use again the next season.

2024 was the 13th year for our school garden. About 10 years ago we started growing cantaloupe and seedless watermelon on raised beds with white plastic and drip line irrigation.

Dealing with row middles in vining crops in a plasticulture system presents its own challenges to control weeds and deal with mud. We tried straw, herbicides, cover crops like annual ryegrass, and finally "bit the bullet" and started using good landscape fabric that lasts several years. It performed great, but presented its own problems with retrieval, storage, and reusing it. After a lot of brainstorming, we came up with the device in the photo that, along with five good laborers, retrieves the plastic onto a 2" PVC pipe that makes handling, storage, and reusing much better than just folding the fabric up into a difficult to manage "mess".



Glen Roberts

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Wayne County Agriculture
Cooperative Extension

***Apparatus designed and built
by Glen Roberts,
Wayne County ANR Agent.***

***Terry Bertram, ANR Program
Assistant, Jeff Sutton,
Extension Custodian, and
Kane Norfleet and Parker
Young (FFA Students) rolling
up landscape fabric from the
school garden.***



Danny Adams, Sr. Small Farm Program Assistant, and Tanya & John Berry attending the 26th Annual Small Farmers Conference.

Kentucky State University Small Farmer of the Year Award

Tanya and John Berry were awarded the 2024 Kentucky State University Small Farmer of the Year Award at the 26th Annual Small, Limited-Resource, Minority Farmers Conference held in Frankfort, KY on November 22, 2024.

Tanya and her husband John, cultivate plants, flowers, and vegetables on their two-acre farm, Berry Farms. They operate both a high tunnel and a greenhouse system in Monticello, KY which significantly enhances their farm’s productivity and extends the growing season. Tanya and John own a country store where they sell their products, as well as some of their neighbors’ honey and soaps.

Tanya serves as Market President of the Wayne County Farmers’ Market. She can be found selling her produce at the Farmers’ Market in the summer.

South-Central KY Contest Awards & Educational Program

Encouraging producers who grow and/or utilize forage products on their farms has long been a priority of the Wayne County Extension Services. Utilizing modern day testing methods can aid producers in understanding what degree of forage quality they actually possess. With this information, producers can more easily make decisions that can affect the farms ability to become even more productive and profitable. Wayne County had 46 entries in this year’s Inaugural South-Central KY Hay Contest. Hay samples were collected locally by Wayne County Extension staff. These samples were then sent to the UK Research and Education Center at Princeton, KY for in-depth nutritional analysis. Wayne County had two award winners from this year’s contest. *Congratulations to Dennis Guinn, who placed first in the small grain category (oats) and to Henry Stringer, who placed second in the small grain category (wheat).*



L-R. Jimmy Henning, Dept. of Plant & Soil Sciences, Danny Adams, Dennis Guinn-1st Place Winner, Terry Bertram, & Kelsey Marcum, Casey Co. ANR Agent

Feeding Wayne County Through the Feed America Organization

Many households in our community do not have the resources to regularly obtain enough nutritious food. Initiatives like Feed America, which collaborates with other organizations, persistently strive to reduce hunger in our county. Through its Manna Project, Steubenville Baptist Church provides qualified participants with monthly food distributions from the Feed America Program. Joy McGinnis, the FCS Program Assistant, provides research-based nutrition and food safety publications for the food boxes. She assists with the food box packing when her schedule permits. In close collaboration with the Feed America Coordinator, she offers a healthy recipe that incorporates at least one food box ingredient. She helps on the line and with the reporting the day of distribution. An average of more than 600 food boxes are provided each month with the assistance of numerous volunteers.



Joy McGinnis, FCS Program Assistant helping a volunteer pack food boxes.

Rain, snow, sleet, or sun, volunteers distribute food boxes.



Enriching Minds Through Project Learning Tree Activities

4-H School Clubs are an important part of school enrichment. Sherry Coffey, 4-H Program Assistant, meets with students at Wayne County Monticello Elementary once a month to present to the students different activities surrounding environmental education provided by 'Project Learning Tree' curriculum.

Sherry enjoys her time with third graders at WCME as they learn all about "tree cookies". She introduces them to parts of a tree so that they will understand the structure of a tree and how different parts help the tree to function. Students learn how a tree grows and how old the tree is by counting the rings in the cookie. They have a wonderful time and always look forward to making their own tree cookie to take home with them.



Sherry teaching "Tree Cookies" to 3rd Graders

Enriching Lives Through the Arts

The arts are an integral part of our community. As Seth Hart (CA Assistant) continues to serve it, he's always seeking new, creative ways in his field to enrich the lives of others. *"Without art in the world of Extension, as if it were a glue or woven thread, it is difficult to sustain potential when local talents are demanding opportunities. Our county is fortunate to provide as much, especially when it attracts people from surrounding counties who don't have them. When talent is acknowledged, encouraged and invited, those people bring not only positivity, but a contagious joy to the community, which is needed for good mental, spiritual, and even physical health. They're all connected."*



FCS State Office Staff learning the techniques of painting a barn quilt.

Among his programs, barn quilt painting continues to be one of his most popular, both through workshops and while updating and promoting our County Barn Quilt Trail. He designed our most recent quilt block that is displayed at the extension office, entitled, "Wayne County, KY," which is dedicated to Wayne County and its staples. In December, as staff from the FCS state office came to visit, Seth was also honored with the chance to instruct them and to provide insight from this program. Pottery, along with other mediums, is also popular with our clients of all ages, including 4-H students.

Families in the Kitchen...Cook Together Eat Together

Nutrition Education Program Assistant, Gaye Hutchison is happy to have worked with five families this past summer utilizing a new program, called Families in the Kitchen...Cook Together Eat Together. These five families learned cooking skills, food safety, how to read a nutrition facts label and shopping at the farmers' market. Classes were taught on Breakfast, Planning Meals and Grocery Shopping, Soup, Salad and Vegetables, One Pot Meals, Slow Cooker Meals and Snacks. Each lesson contains a guide to youth friendly cooking tasks. When the food was prepared the families sat down together and critiqued the recipes, what they liked and what they would change. All participants agreed that cooking together and eating together made the food more enjoyable and both adults and youth from ages 8-16 seemed to have enjoyed the five-day event. All families received several cooking tools to take home for their kitchen.



Family Fun in the Kitchen

KENTUCKY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



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- Soil Testing
- BQA & Pesticide Certifications
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- Farm Visits

Family & Consumer Sciences:

- Food Preservation Workshops
- Pressure Canner Gauges Check
- Monthly Quilt Class
- Home Based Micro-processing Certification & Nutrition Classes

4-H Youth Development:

- 4-H Clubs : Cloverbuds, Cooking Club, Art Club & Needlework & Sewing Skills Club
- 4-H Summer Camp
- Shooting Sports Program - Archery

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Office Hours
Monday-Friday ~ 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. ET



Visit the Wayne County Extension Office Website by scanning the QR Code to learn more about the services offered.

Cooperative Extension Service

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