

### Bale Trail

In 2020, Nelson County Cooperative Extension piloted a community based program intended to increase awareness of Agriculture in our community, increase social media traffic to our office Facebook page and serve as a fundraiser for 4-H. The 2022 Bale Trail was the third year for this community event. This annual event provides a free opportunity for families and individuals to explore our community while also learning about Nelson County Cooperative Extension Programs.

This is the second year where a partnership with Visit Bardstown provided sponsorship signage and prize money and promoted the trail to the many tourist who visit our community.

4-H clubs and other Extension organizations set up displays to increase awareness of Extension programming. Educational videos were made available for guests to access using a QR code at each display connecting participants with resources to assist them with disaster preparedness. Bale trail field trips were offered to schools within walking distance. Students toured the 7 displays next to the office, learning about hay production, 4-H clubs, 4-H camp and other Extension organizations. Literacy, Eating and Activity for Primary program was incorporated by with these field trips, when students visited a Wally Cat Apple a Day display. The youth learned about nutrition and MY Plate through *Golden Delicious* Story, samples local apples and participated in apple themed physical activity.



Accompanying social media posts reached over 6,000 people with over 1,500 post engagements. Sponsors included local businesses, farms, non-profits, schools and Ag related agencies. As a result of the Bale Trail, Nelson County Cooperative Extension was able to reach new audiences in our community.

Existing Extension volunteers and

clients noted that as a result of taking part in the Bale Trail, they gained a better understanding of other Extension programs and have showed increased interested in cross program participation.

### Spotlight on 2022-2023 Successes

- 1000 Number of people who applied Extension recommendations for soil fertility
- 150 Number of producers who applied Extension recommendations for improving hay production
- 300 Number of people who applied Extension recommendations to address insects or pests
- 5626 Number of hours of service contributed
- 1505 Number of youth who demonstrated a skill that was learned or improved by participating in 4-H agriculture programming
- 648 Number of youth who participated in project, activity, or event for science, engineering, and technology projects
- 100 Number of people who made decisions based on Extension research including interseeding clover/legume, using cover crops and/or alternate forage species
- 104 Number of individuals that take on formal or informal leadership roles as a result of participation in an Extension leadership program
- 2050 Number of hours Nelson County Extension Homemakers (KEHA) members volunteered in community activities and events
- 200 Number of people who used Extension resources in making decisions or employing best practices related to pollinators, and /or their habitats
- 150 Number of people who used Extension resources in making decisions or employing best practices related to processing or marketing of honey



## Feeding Nelson County

In October of 2021, the Nelson County Cooperative Extension office was approached by Feeding America provide a location for an after hours food distribution with the goal of reaching underserved Latino audience. According to Feeding America, "Latinos were 2.5 times more likely to experience food insecurity than white individuals. Latino children were more than twice as likely to live in food-insecure households as white children" during the pandemic. The Nelson County Extension office served as the location and provided health and nutrition resources to the around 70 initial families that attended. Of those families, only four where Latino.

Efforts to reach Latino audiences have included, utilizing translated flyers delivered to business with Latino staff, ensuring that translators are on site for each distribution, direct delivery to some families, providing Latino recipients with culturally appropriate food and nutrition education resources in Spanish Language versions. Although, this originally targeted community remains a small percentage of our total food distribution, the numbers have increased to on average about 15 families.

Because of the hours, 4:30-6:30, the distribution was incredibly successful at getting nutritious food to the working nutrition insecure. In Nelson County the majority of food related aid is available during normal business hours. Each month the number of families served increased. In June of 2022, over 200 families received food assistance, healthy recipes, nutrition education resources and resources about aid services available in our community.

In September 2022, the distribution moved to the Bread for Life Pantry as an after-hours distribution, allowing Feeding America to increase outreach in other communities. The food pantry orders and stores the food, while the Extension Office coordinates, markets and recruits volunteers. The information is shared on social media and with over 150 community partners.

When fuel prices steadily increased during the summer of 2022, many members of the Nelson County community became newly nutrition insecure. As a result, Danielle Hagler, now the Nelson County family Consumer Science Agent scheduled a communitywide Hunger in Kentucky training to educate the public of this emerging need and to assist in moving the community to action. Efforts to address nutrition in security have continued and increased. The Latino outreach found a permanent home at a local church, and the afterhours food distribution continues to serve over 200 families monthly.

## Nelson Ready– Disaster Resource Fair

September is National Preparedness month and with the increasing occurrence of major natural disasters in Kentucky, Danielle Hagler, Nelson County Cooperative Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences coordinated a disaster ready resource fair in Nelson County. The event was coordinated after local county agents and community members assisted in relief efforts for the Western Kentucky Tornadoes and Eastern Kentucky Floods. Leading up to the event, social media post from FEMA's Ready campaign were shared on the Nelson County Extension social media site, with a reach of around 1,000 people. Fifteen community partners came together for the Nelson Ready- Disaster Readiness Expo on September 27, 2022, to assist the community in preparing, responding and recovering from emergencies.

### Nelson Ready Disaster Readiness Expo

TUESDAY, SEPT. 27, 2022  
3-7 PM  
NELSON COUNTY  
CIVIC CENTER  
317 S 3RD ST.  
BARDSTOWN, KY

#### Speaker Schedule

3:00- **Disaster Ready in Agriculture**  
Robbie Smith UK CES Agent For Ag & Natural Resources

3:30- **The History of Disasters in Nelson Co.**  
Dixie Hibbs, Local Historian

4:00- **START TRIAGE MCI**  
Nelson Co. Emergency Services

4:30- **Lessons Learned During Dawson Springs, KY Tornado Response Efforts**  
Nicole Blanzky, West KY 4-H Camp Director

5:00- **Disasters in KY: Past, Present & Future**  
Matt Dixon, UK Ag Weather Center

5:30- **Why You Should Have SMART 911**  
Shawn Gaither, Nelson County Dispatch

6:00- **Stocking Your Emergency Pantry**  
Danielle Hagler, UK CES Agent for Family & Consumer Sciences



University of Kentucky  
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Cooperative Extension Service

**Protect your family and your property from disasters.**

FEMA Ready.



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

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, or physical or mental disability. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.

LEXINGTON, KY 40546

Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

At the event, the community partners set up booths to distribute information and resources to the community. Setting up informational booths were; Nelson County Cooperative Extension, Emergency Services, Dispatch, Fire Department, Local Radio Station, Red Cross, County Clerk, Raising Hope- Suicide Awareness, Community Low Income Health Clinic, UK Ag Weather Center, West KY 4-H Camp, KHBE/Kipda, Local Historian, Sister Of Charity, and the KY National Guard.



Community partners who responded to a follow up questionnaire indicated that the event helped connect attendees to resources that helped them be more prepared to prepare, respond and recover from emergencies. Nelson County dispatch noted that participants learned about the Smart911 service at the event and had signed up after attending the event. Many of the community partners attended the talks from other presenters and noted learning new information that would help them in their roles.

Over 60 individuals attended the event. The first 20 households received emergency kits, and two families were drawn to receive weather radios. Participants who responded to a follow up questionnaire indicated the event helped them become more prepared for emergencies and helped them connect with resources that helped them be more prepared to respond and recover from emergencies. One participant indicated that they connected with the Red Cross and had scheduled a time for the Red Cross to inspect their household smoke detectors and to install new ones. A Head Start Director who attended, indicated that she planned to use the information gained to educate Head Start families on how to become more prepared in their homes. Several attendees noted that they increased their knowledge of food safety during an emergency and that they were making plans to improve or begin an emergency food pantry. One attendee noted that as a result of attending, they now plan to keep documents in a safe, portable location.

Danielle Hagler now serves on the State Extension Disaster & Emergency Team and is a University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Representative to the Extension Disaster Education Network. Danielle also served on an educational panel for the Family and Consumer Sciences In the Faces of Disaster agent training. Cooperative Extension is an important partner in educating our communities to become more prepared for disasters and an integral part of the response plan within our community.

## Camp Magic

July 11-15, 2022 Nelson County 4-H welcomed 231 campers, 29 teens volunteers and 39 adult volunteers to an amazing week of 4-H Summer camp. Camp Magic is unexplainable, non-tangible things that are memory making, life changing moments. The opportunity for those moments are cultivated from financial and material support from donors, careful planning, training and

countless hours from volunteers and staff, however the magic part is moments where the environment of camp



and all that preparation leave an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of all campers.

## Agriculture Advances

For more than twenty years the Kentucky Agriculture Development Fund has been a staple of Nelson County agriculture advancement. To date over \$3,500,000 has been distributed to farmers and farm businesses in our county. Entities like Boones Butcher Shop and McIntyres Winery were early beneficiaries of the funds and that helped rebuild and develop these Nelson County staples. The fund has helped make farms safer by revamping countless cattle handling facilities, increased safety equipment availability to our first responders and kept dead livestock from contaminating our water supplies. Many farms have improved genetics for their herds and improved the quality of forages through better management and storage.

In 2022 the Nelson County Agriculture Development Board disbursed \$25,000 for the Next Generation County Agricultural Investment Program, \$134,172 for the General CAIP program, , \$15,000 for Dead animal removal and \$10,000 for the Green River Meats LLC of Greensburg KY, Nelson County Soil Conservation administers the CAIP programs and was able to fund 95 farm families with a matching \$1,500 grant. The entire livestock producing community benefits from the Dead Animal Removal Program.

## Weed Resistance Study

During the past couple of years, concern has grown that a population of herbicide-resistant Johnsongrass existed within the county. We were contacted by a farm to investigate whether this was in fact the case and what the

implications might be for them going forward. After a consultation and a field inspection, it was determined that a replicated variable rate trial with different classes of herbicides would be in order.

Three herbicides were applied over the top of the marked and gridded plot at the recommended rate and at double that rate for each herbicide. Each replication also contained an unsprayed control. This application took



place in the last week of September and the first year observation of the results took place on October the 12th. Initial indications are that there appears to be herbicide

resistance in the field. Following the observation and consultation with the landowner, it was determined that in order to make sure what was being observed was in fact true the study should be repeated in the late Spring of 2022.

In the spring of 2022, the plot was once again installed and nine different treatments were prepared. This would be the same treatment that occurred in the fall of 2021 but with the addition of the Clethodim Product. The data indicated the farmer had Nicosulfuron resistant Johnsongrass and possibly Quizalofop-P-ethyl as well. To undeniably verify this finding we will continue with a greenhouse trial.

As a result of this study and the expansion of grain production in Nelson County it was decided that there was a need to educate the grower on the best practices of grain production, weed resistance management and to ultimately increase their resiliency and profitability.

To address these educational needs I reached out



to several farmers to discuss what it was that they would like to learn more about. The results of those conversations were the building blocks

for the 2023 Grain Crops Program held at the Nelson

County Extension Office in January of 2023. This program was offered as a multi-county program and 35 people participated from four counties. Four of our Extension Specialist presented on topics such as:

1. Why high Magnesium lime doesn't affect yield or soil compaction.
2. Why fertilize application timing matters in corn production.
3. Why it's necessary (again) to apply residual herbicides to aid in the suppression of Palmer Amaranth and Waterhemp.
4. Understanding the growth cycle of crops can help make better fungicide decisions.
5. Carbon Markets: Is there potential or propaganda driving the buzz?

Some quotes from the day will help put into perspective what farmers gained from the day's education. "That was good to hear about the magnesium in lime, industry has been saying it's a problem but the research says no.... that will save me time and money by not driving past quarries that are closer to home." A couple of others indicated that they really needed to hear about the carbon markets saying: "I was afraid I was missing out on something because I just didn't understand what was going on, turns out I haven't missed a thing, but just need to keep my ears open to the future."

## **KEEP UP WITH US!**

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"Extension Today" on WBRT - 11:00 a.m.  
Every Thursday of the month

### **See us on TV!**

Channel 6—monthly programs  
Channel 13 PLG—monthly programs

### **Like our Facebook Page!**

NelsonCounty Extension



**University of Kentucky**  
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