


MESSENGER-INQUIRER

 Cooperative
Extension Service



Farm Update

daviess.ca.uky.edu

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES
EDUCATION

Clint Hardy

Daviess County Extension Office

May 18, 2024

Extension's Role in Our Community

The mission of the Cooperative Extension Service, simply stated, is to make a difference in the lives of Kentucky citizens through research-based education. Jointly with our other land-grant partner, Kentucky State University, we bring the universities to the people in their local communities, addressing issues of importance to all Kentuckians.

The Daviess County Cooperative Extension office is located on the campus of Owensboro Community and Technical College at 4800A New Hartford Road. We've been at this location since 2000. Before that, our office was in the Daviess County Courthouse. We have 12 people in our office. Two 4-H Youth Development Extension Agents oversee and organize adult volunteers and program participants in special interest clubs, camps, and leadership development activities. A Horticulture Extension Agent works closely with commercial horticultural crop production, residential and commercial landscape and lawn care resources, and Master Gardener community leaders. A Family and Consumer Sciences agent provides resources to the community related to meeting the nutritional needs of the family, assistance in budgeting resources, and healthcare. My role as the county agricultural agent is to provide programming and resources that address the challenges and needs of commercial crop and livestock farms, landowners, and agricultural input suppliers in the county. Much of my

MESSENGER-INQUIRER

attention is to early career farmers in helping them build leadership and management skills to help their businesses thrive.

We have a general office program assistant who supports programs that agents conduct. This person also provides outreach to our community partners and educational programs for youth organizations across Owensboro. The horticultural program assistant helps address garden and landscape issues for residential clients as well as educational programming. We are fortunate to have a position in our office specifically addressing the nutritional needs of clientele eligible for supplemental nutrition assistance. This provides a very important service by ensuring SNAP-eligible audiences receive information on maximizing funding resources to prepare nutritious meals for themselves and their families. Our office is home to a farm management specialist in the Department of Agricultural Economics who works with more than 40 farm businesses to improve their management and provide real farm data for ag econ faculty's use in research projects.

Our two support staff and the office manager are the three who keep everything on track. Their work is invaluable in keeping the needs of staff and clientele met and documentation in proper order. They are often the first contact between clients' needs and resources available from the university to meet those needs. Most importantly, we recognize our community partner organizations and the hundreds of volunteers who participate, lead, and provide time and resources to help our programs be successful and impactful to the community.

I share this level of detail about our office, to first inform the readers who are unaware of the various avenues in which we bring the resources of the University of Kentucky to the local level. Likewise, we are the conduit to convey the community needs to the University, sharing

MESSENGER-INQUIRER

areas in which additional research may be necessary. We accomplish a lot each year and are excited to invite everyone to an open house this Tuesday, May 21 from 5-7 p.m.

The purpose is to introduce ourselves to those who don't know us and share the various opportunities, committees, clubs, and volunteers who work together to make what we do possible. It is an opportunity to educate those who may only know one or two of our program areas well but may be uninformed about the other opportunities they or their family may enjoy and benefit from. No registration is necessary. Stop by, let us meet you, and enjoy hamburgers, hotdogs, and giveaways.

Used Tire Disposal

Daviess County Fiscal Court will partner with the Division of Waste Management in the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet to provide a used tire disposal this coming week. The free tire disposal event is scheduled for May 23 – May 25 at the State Highway Garage at 2973 Fairview Drive, next to Horsefork Creek Park. The site will be open May 23 and 24 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and May 25 from 8 a.m. to noon. For questions, contact Daviess County Solid Waste at 270-229-4484.

The Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is an Equal Opportunity Organization with respect to education and employment and authorization to provide research, education information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to 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.

MESSENGER-INQUIRER