



KENTUCKY 4-H

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

4-H Youth Development



COMMITMENT TO POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Kentucky 4-H provides transformational experiences for young people in an informal learning environment focused on experiential learning (Kolb, 1984). Utilizing the 4-H Thriving Model (Arnold, 2018), Kentucky 4-H provides the opportunity for young people to steer themselves through their adolescent years into the future. As young people leave the program, they should be equipped with the skills to act as positive contributors of our society. Positive youth development professionals must act as champions for the field of study by utilizing research-based information grounded in the science of learning and development.

Kentucky 4-H is the vehicle which youth take through adolescence into adulthood. To reach optimal developmental outcomes, 4-H professionals must follow youth program quality principles (Eccles & Gootman, 2002) and intentionally program to include youth sparks, developmental relationships, and belonging in all programming efforts. These principles are the roadway which underpin the journey of development.

Youth taking an active role in meaningful experiences of their choice fuels and drives the vehicle. A young person's duration, intensity, and breadth of experience in the 4-H program are all important aspects of engagement (Chaput, Little, & Weiss, 2004). Through the intentional planning of 4-H programs, 4-H professionals can retain young people in the program which leads to optimal opportunities for growth.

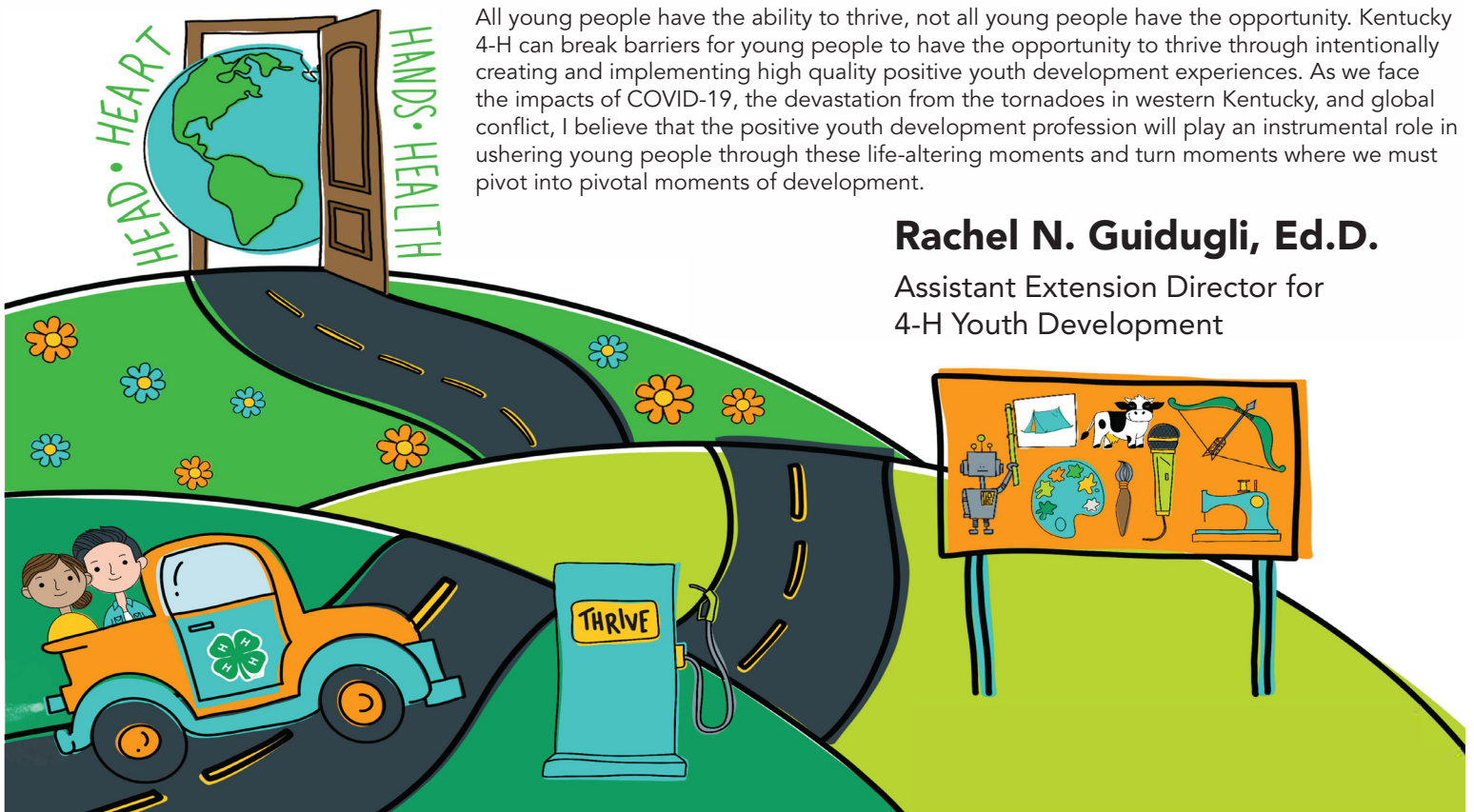
Clubs, activities, programs, and events in Kentucky 4-H serve as pit stops in the process of learning; this is where youth can practice life skills which contribute to social, emotional, and cognitive development. Kentucky 4-H provides these opportunities of development through the seven core content areas (agriculture, leadership/civic engagement, science, engineering and technology, health, expressive arts and communication, family and consumer sciences, and natural resources). 4-H focuses on youth engagement where the member chooses which activities, clubs, or events they want to be a part of. As youth travel through experiences their future begins to come into view and new skills begin to flourish.

4-H opens the door to the world. Young people who have traveled through the Kentucky 4-H program have developed habits of mind centered on positive social, emotional, and cognitive behaviors. The foundation of long-term development is centered on the four Hs: head (academic/vocational success), heart (civic engagement), hands (employability & economic stability), and health (happiness and wellbeing) (Arnold, 2018).

All young people have the ability to thrive, not all young people have the opportunity. Kentucky 4-H can break barriers for young people to have the opportunity to thrive through intentionally creating and implementing high quality positive youth development experiences. As we face the impacts of COVID-19, the devastation from the tornadoes in western Kentucky, and global conflict, I believe that the positive youth development profession will play an instrumental role in ushering young people through these life-altering moments and turn moments where we must pivot into pivotal moments of development.

Rachel N. Guidugli, Ed.D.

Assistant Extension Director for
4-H Youth Development



Images: Cultivating Culver, LLC

WHAT'S INSIDE

4	Kentucky 4-H Impact Statistics
5	Volunteerism
8	Expressive Arts
10	Achievement
12	Health
14	Family & Consumer Science
16	Science, Engineering, & Technology
18	Leadership
20	Shooting Sports
23	Natural Resources
26	Agriculture
29	Camping
31	State Fair
33	Civic Engagement & Service
35	Kentucky 4-H Foundation
39	Kentucky 4-H & the University of Kentucky

KENTUCKY 4-H 2021-2022 IMPACT



Total Youth
Participation
138,602

Total Youth
Summer Camp
Participation
10,933

Total 4-H Club
Membership
72,070

Popular
Programs

Poultry	10,214
Natural Resources	12,253
Leadership	11,146

Total Youth
Volunteers
5,384

Total Adult
Volunteers
8,443

Participation
by Grade

Elementary	57%
Middle	28%
High	11%
Post High	.2%

Residence

Farm	10%
Small Town/Rural	56%
Town/Small City	21%
Suburban	3%
Central City	3%

Diversity

American Indian/ Alaskan Native	1.7 %
Asian	0.7 %
Black or African American	4.9 %
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.1 %
White	85.8 %
More than 1 race	3.0 %



Volunteerism

State Program Leader: Ken Culp III

Volunteers deliver Extension programs to audiences that would not otherwise be involved and extend the outreach of Extension and Extension professionals. Volunteers multiply the efforts of Extension professionals and paraprofessionals by providing talents, resources, skills, services, and abilities that in many cases, Extension may be unable to afford to pay for.

The Kentucky 4-H Volunteer Program focuses on supporting agents in generating, educating, mobilizing, and sustaining volunteer efforts. Volunteers serve the program in a variety of ways. These include formal roles, involving club leaders (project and community clubs), camping volunteers (counselors, counselors in training, junior counselors, class instructors, etc.), and 4-H Council officers and members. Informal volunteer roles are often episodic or involve a specific event, contest, or activity. These roles might involve assisting with a local speech or demonstration contest by serving as a judge, timer, or room host, assisting with Reality Store, providing refreshments for a 4-H meeting, chaperoning a field trip, coordinating a fundraising activity, organizing a service project, teaching a workshop or class, or simply assisting the 4-H club volunteer leader in any number of ways.

Kentucky Volunteer Forum

The flagship of the volunteer program is the Kentucky Volunteer Forum. Initiated in 2000, this has become the single largest volunteer development event in the world. Held February 24 – 16, 2022, 216 workshops were offered in 19 content tracks, 10 Seminars on Wheels and three Special Sessions dual were offered for both professional and staff development. 65 awards were presented to adults or teams and an additional 20 awards were presented to teens. Exactly 150 youth were recognized for completing 10 years of participation in and service to the Kentucky 4-H Program.

At the 2022 KVF, 64 volunteers from 27 counties completed the requirements necessary for accreditation in Agriculture, Camping, Communications & Expressive Arts, Family & Consumer Sciences, Health, Leadership, Natural Resources, and Science, Engineering, & Technology. Accredited volunteers join certified volunteers in leading programs, teaching workshops, and leading activities in the subject matter area in which they have been accredited. 1,221 people from all 120 Kentucky counties and 12 states attended this hallmark event.

Hall of Fame Banquet Awards

At the Kentucky Volunteer Forum, volunteers were recognized at the Hall of Fame Banquet for their contribution to the Kentucky 4-H Program, as well as the impact that they had upon youth. Extension relies heavily upon its partnerships with individual counties, and the relationships built with local stakeholders. The TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More) and Partners in Progress Awards celebrate these collaborations. The following five TEAMS were recognized at the 2022 KVF for the impact that they have made in their local communities.



Partners in Progress Awards

Daviess County Cattlemen's Association

The Daviess County 4-H Feeder Calf Project is a successful collaboration between 4-H and the Daviess County Cattlemen's Association. DCCA volunteers contribute countless hours of time and talent to the project which involves the 4-Her purchasing one or two feeder calves during the first week of April each year. The participant is then responsible for the care and feeding of those calves for the duration of the project ending when the calves are sold at the August CPH sale. Youth are encouraged to halter break their calves and exhibit them at the Daviess County Fair. They are required to submit a record book which details weights, health care, and feeding for their project to be considered complete. This project has been a positive influence in the lives of hundreds of Daviess County youth, and the DCCA has been a crucial force behind the project for its entire 21-year history.

Harrison County Conservation District

The Harrison County Soil & Water Conservation District has been an active member with the Harrison County 4-H Program for many years. The conservation district coaches the 4-H Land Judging Team, leading two teams to the National Land Judging Contest in Oklahoma. Kayleigh Evans (from Soil Conservation) coaches the team, providing weekly practices during the spring. The County Conservation District also sponsors the Land Judging Program by sponsoring contest premiums, providing apparel, and travel expenses to state and national contests. This partnership benefits the Conservation District, 4-H, and introduces the importance of natural resources to youth.

Hart County Farm Bureau Federation

The Hart County Farm Bureau Federation has made numerous contributions to the Hart County 4-H Program by sponsoring the Hart County 4-H All Star Awards annually, including livestock projects, 4-H market livestock premium show, camp scholarships, livestock shows, camp scholarships, and the banquet sponsor. The Hart County Farm Bureau Federation practices investing in the future of agriculture by investing in 4-H youth.

Tractor Supply County Distribution Center – Simpson County

During the pandemic, the Simpson County Extension Office received an increase in requests from families wanting to grow their own vegetables. The agents collaborated with TSC to develop "Community Container Garden Kits". TSC donated the necessary supplies for families to create the container garden kits, including seeds or plants, containers, bags of potting soil, and educational publications. 550 families in Simpson County grew fresh vegetables to feed their families. Many of the participants were first-time gardeners and new Extension clientele.

Green River Gun Club – Warren County

The Green River Gun Club has provided continual support to the Warren County 4-H Shooting Sports Program for 21 years. More than 1,000 4-H members have benefitted from the partnership by utilizing the free practice range to accommodate rifle, BB, air rifle, pistol, archery, black powder, and trap. The Green River Gun Club also dedicates one or two days each week throughout the summer exclusively for 4-H members' use to create a "safe zone" so that 4-H members and coaches can follow all safety protocols.

TEAM Awards

Barren County Festival of Giving

The Barren County 4-H Festival of Giving Team, comprised of adults and teens, was organized to conduct community service projects. The needs of many residents in nursing homes and mental health facilities, terminally ill youth, animals, and other youth have been addressed through a Festival of Giving. The program has provided innovative ways to communicate the "art of caring" to others in Barren County. The Barren County 4-H Program has been identified as a strong community service advocate thanks to the efforts of the 4-H Festival of Giving Team's efforts.

Henderson County Team

Several youth and adult volunteers from Henderson County 4-H were asked to paint an 18-foot semi-trailer to be placed along a busy parkway. Youth and volunteers worked together in a two-week time span to plan, design, create, and execute this artful marketing piece. The trailer includes the 4-H pledge, the Kentucky 4-H brain logo, a big 4-H clover, and "Henderson is 4-H Proud". This artwork now serves as a 4-H marketing piece for the tri-state area and their 4-H programs. Henderson County is proud of the accomplishment of this creative design and how it helps to promote 4-H.

Simpson County FRYSC & SCSC

The Simpson County School District Family Resource Youth Service Center (FRYSC) coordinators and the Community Education director partners with 4-H to work as a "TEAM" and integrate Extension's youth programs throughout their schools. These programs include Classroom Chick Incubation, Environmental Field Day, Blender Bike, Dollars & Cents, Measurement Labs, Leadership Speech Class, Lego Robotics, Safety Day, Container Gardening, Explore Agriculture, Look-A-Likes, Health Fair, Health Rocks!, S.T.O.P., and multiple nutrition classes. Community Education utilizes the Extension Service as a community partner for the district's Night of Innovation, STEAM Night, Back to School Bash, and Elf Connection.

4 the Love of Horses – Warren County

4 the Love of Horses was created for horseless club members and horse crazy kids who couldn't get enough of horses. This new Warren County 4-H program went beyond the monthly horse club meetings to involve 4-H members with additional hands-on learning and engagement with horses. Participants visited an equine farm monthly to learn about horse ownership and to apply "hippology" type information in a real-world setting. One meeting included learning about the markings of a horse. Participants were given a picture of a horse that resided on the farm and had to find the horse with the markings, catch and halter the horse with assistance from the 4 the Love of Horses team members, and lead the horse to the barn to share their findings with other horse club members.

Warren County 4-H Leadership Club

Leaders of the Pond is a group of 4-H teens and tweens using their leadership skills to promote 4-H and engage students in an after-school childcare setting. The "team" was formed in September 2019 and partnered with Rich Pond Elementary School to conduct a series of after-school sessions to educate students about the 4-H program and to recruit them to join 4-H. Projects the team focused on included: leadership, team building, problem solving, and SET projects. Leaders of the Pond Members had fun engaging the after-school childcare participants with teambuilding activities such as group juggle, cup stacking, ships and sailors, and 4.4.4-H. Members also incorporated SET projects by teaching about bridge building using gum drops and toothpicks. A total of 80 youth, K-6th grades, participated in the Rich Pond Elementary School after-school program which was led by 11 Warren County 4-H Leadership Club members.



Programs

Expressive Arts

State Program Leader: Jennifer Tackett

The Kentucky 4-H Expressive Arts Program seeks to provide arts events and activities where young people can not only attain artist skills, but also help them to develop critical life and work skills. We hope these youth become advocates for both 4-H and the arts. There is a gap that lies between school arts programs and paid arts opportunities that can be filled with 4-H arts programs.

Kentucky 4-H Experiences

- Kentucky Visual Arts Programs: 5,799 youth
- Kentucky 4-H Performing Arts Programs: 459 youth
- Kentucky State Fair Arts Exhibits: 1,020 entries
- Kentucky State Fair Photography Exhibits: 1,183 entries
- Kentucky 4-H Expressive Arts Cohort at Teen Conference: 32 youth
- Kentucky 4-H Performing Arts Troupe: 12 youth selected through audition
- Virtual Ukulele Club: 16 youth over the course of 3 months.
- Written Communications Contest: 73 submitted in 12 different categories.
- Kentucky 4-H Project Go Expressive Arts: 1,900 reach on social media
- Visual Letters Project: 9 youth from Kentucky, 9 youth from Michigan, and 9 from Argentina
- Kentucky 4-H 4 Uke Project Pilot: 4 youth learn how to write songs with ukuleles

Kentucky 4-H Expressive Arts Curriculum Pieces

- Drama
- Music
- Visual Arts
- Dance
- Photography



Visual Letter Submitted from Woodford County 4-H to be shared with youth in Michigan and Argentina.

// 4-H expressive arts has allowed me to step out of my comfort zone and do things I've never done before. I've also been fortunate by gaining many friends along the way. //

Kara Wilder, Hart County

Programs



Achievement

State Program Leader: Kimberly Leger

Motivation and the use of incentives are essential to positive youth development. 4-H Youth Development programs provide opportunities for creativity in a learn-by-doing environment and encourage youth to become involved in projects and activities. The 4-H Achievement Program is intended to recognize 4-H participants who have outstanding accomplishments and incentivize youth to increase their knowledge, skills, and abilities. Every effort is made to make this 4-H program inclusive to all eligible youth. The 4-H Achievement Program design includes: a comprehensive program spanning the entire career of the 4-Her, awards points for outside efforts and interests, encourages growth and development by awarding high points at multi-county, state, and national levels, and the achievement program is designed to allow 4-Hers to begin keeping records of their awards, participation, and projects. The 4-H Emerald Award is the highest honor a Kentucky 4-H member can receive.

Emma Browning

Former Kentucky 4-H Vice President

I was born into this program. My mom has been the 4-H agent in Shelby County since before I was born, so this program has always been a big part of my life. Even before I was old enough to be an official 4-Her I was tagging along with Mom to everything.

As a 9-year-old, I had no idea all the time I spent at my County Extension Office participating in various 4-H activities would have such an impact on me. Whether I was curing country hams, giving a speech, or even learning how to cook and sew, I was preparing myself for my future regardless of what path I decided to take. As I got older, I took on more leadership positions. I served as the Shelby County Teen Council president and then served on the Kentucky State Teen Council for two years. 4-H pushed me way farther than I ever thought I was capable.

I almost didn't apply to serve on the Kentucky 4-H State Teen Council. I never had confidence in myself, but luckily, I had people who saw things in me that I never saw in myself. Not only did I apply to be on the State Teen Council, but I also applied to serve as a State Officer and applied for the Emerald Award. While 4-H was never about the titles or the trophies, I am so blessed that as I conclude my 4-H career I not only received the coveted Emerald Award, but I also served as the Kentucky 4-H Vice President and was able to give back to this program that gave me so much.

When I concluded my term as the Kentucky 4-H Vice President I explained in my retiring address that the reason 4-leafed clovers are lucky is that they are so rare. Out of 5,000 clovers, only one will have four leaves. I may never find a 4-leafed clover, but I truly believe I found something even rarer. 4-H gave me my happy place. It gave me a program where I was never asked to be anything but myself. Because of 4-H, I have confidence, invaluable life skills, and friends that will last a lifetime. I'm not sure where I would be without Kentucky 4-H, but I am sure I would not be the person that I am today.



A young girl with brown hair, wearing a blue short-sleeved shirt, a blue helmet with the brand name 'PETZL' visible, and a black safety harness, is climbing a thick, grey rope. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a dense forest of green trees and foliage. The image is partially overlaid by a dark green banner at the top left containing the word 'Programs' in white text.

Programs

Health

State Program Leader: Isaac Hilpp

Kentucky 4-H views healthy living as a cornerstone of the 4-H program. It is included in the 4-H Pledge; “I pledge my health to better living” and is one of our seven core areas of programming. 4-H believes that establishing healthy living habits at a young age is key to life-long health. We strive to equip young people with the knowledge and skills to address their own physical, emotional, mental, and social health in an ever-changing world. Kentucky 4-H equips young people with these skills through educational programming in physical health, mental health, personal safety, and addiction prevention.

Health: Year in Review

Over the past year, our state program has focused on mental health and addiction prevention as priority areas. This is in response to the increased rate of mental health concerns and the rise in drug use among young people in Kentucky. The Flagship programs used to do this are Health Rocks! and Youth Mental Health First Aid. Through these programs, we have trained over 100 Youth Mental Health First Aiders and delivered evidence-based drug prevention programming to over 7,000 young people in the state. This has resulted in more than 6,000 young people reporting an increased knowledge of substance use prevention, addiction, and/or recovery and more than 3,000 young people reporting an increased ability to use destigmatized language.

Program Area Offerings and Events

- Healthy Living Leadership Board
- Health Rocks! Program
- 4-H Winter Dash
- Critical Conversations Program





Programs

Family & Consumer Science

State Program Leader: Isaac Hilpp

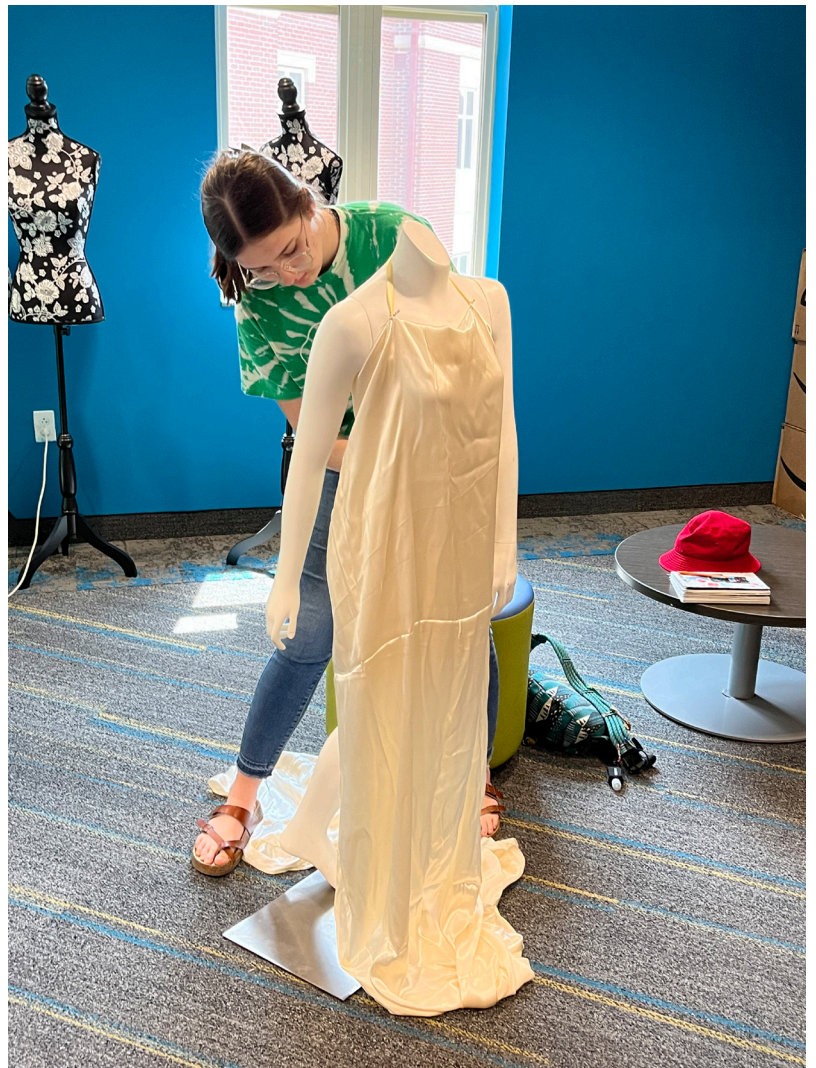
In 4-H Family and Consumer Sciences projects, young people enhance the personal skills they often learn within the family and home: how to cook a variety of foods, plan a meal, select clothing within the family budget, mend or make one's own clothing, maintain a healthy lifestyle by eating the right way, get along with others, decorate and maintain one's space or room, spend money wisely; create a budget and live within it, make wise decisions, start a business, babysit children and siblings, and what it takes to get a job in a field that matches their interests.

Family & Consumer Science: Year in Review

The 4-H Program has made an intentional effort to invest in Culinary and Textile programs in Kentucky with the goal of connecting young people to career fields within their spark. These programs include the Kentucky 4-H Fashion Leadership Board, Jr. and Sr. Culinary Challenge program, Passport Kitchen, and Global Table. Through this investment, 4-H has seen the culinary program grow from fewer than 10 counties to over 50 and the number of youth involved in textile projects double.

Program Area Offerings and Events

- State 4-H Fashion Revue
- Goodwill Meets 4-H
- State Fair Projects
- Fashion Leadership Board
- Culinary Challenge
- Country Ham Recipe Contest
- State BBQ Contest
- Passport Kitchen
- Global Table
- Reality Store



Programs



Science, Engineering, & Technology

State Program Leader: Torey Earle

Through 4-H Science, Engineering, and Technology, youth are engaged in Scientific Inquiry as well as the Engineering Design Process. This program not only helps youth understand content but also encourages them to do so through hands-on learning practices. Over the past year, the Kentucky 4-H SET program, through the efforts of Teens, Volunteers and 4-H Professionals, has worked to increase STEM related programming to all audiences. This has been done using primarily in-person programming but also some virtual programming as well. According to the Kentucky Extension Reporting System, Kentucky 4-H SET programs have reached over 44,000 youth and over 3,100 volunteer leaders in the 2021 – 22 program year. This was accomplished through educational programming such as the National 4-H STEM Challenge, Aerospace, Biotechnology, Computer Science, Electricity, and Robotics.

Virtual/At-Home Experiences

- 50+ youth registered for the Virtual 4-H PosSTEMbilities Project Group and conducted hands-on experiments in area such as Biology, Chemistry and Engineering Design. This group met six times from October through March completing different experiments each month.
- Members of the Kentucky 4-H SET Leadership Board (13 members from 11 counties) attended the National 4-H Youth STEM Summit where they were able to interact with teens from across the nation to work together to problem solve and use critical thinking skills in multiple STEM Challenges.
- Multiple counties throughout the state utilized Kentucky 4-H SET and National 4-H Curriculum to create Grab-N-Go projects for families focused on Aerospace, Engineering Design, Junk Drawer Robotics, Agriscience and Entomology.

In-Person Experiences

- The Kentucky 4-H SET Leadership Board met for two in-person board meetings to plan workshops for the Kentucky 4-H Summit and Kentucky 4-H Teen Conference. They conducted workshops on Robotics and Electricity (4-H Summit) and Drone Technology (4-H Teen Conference) for 60+ Middle and High Schoolers.
- The Kentucky 4-H SET Leadership Board hosted the Kentucky 4-H Robotics Challenge for the first time in three years at 4-H SET Day at the Kentucky State Fair.





Programs

Leadership

State Program Leader: Rachel Guidugli

Leadership is one of the core areas of focus for the Kentucky 4-H program, and as such, there are a wide variety of activities associated with leadership development in youth, appropriate for youth pre-4-H aged and up. The activities involved with leadership development vary greatly, but are all focused on improving the quality aspects of a young leader through reflection, explanation of leadership principle, and personal experiences. Events for leadership and youth development range from the local to national level, and cover both specific areas of concern and general leadership skills.

Deja Hatchett

Former Kentucky 4-H Vice President & National 4-H Young Alumni Advisory Board Member

“Deja Hatchett is an example of how young people have the opportunity to thrive through Kentucky 4-H. Deja began her 4-H career in Jefferson County, advancing through county-level opportunities and moving onto the state and national level. Deja now has had the unique opportunity to represent Kentucky 4-H on the national level as a young alumna.”

I started my 4-H career by participating in a variety of Family Consumer Science related projects on the county level. Sewing, wardrobe planning, and upcycling taught me the discipline, attention to detail, and problem solving that I would need throughout my 4-H journey and life. After building much-needed confidence in my own abilities, I yearned for the opportunity to grant that same sense of purpose to other young people in my community. State level 4-H leadership programs provided just that. I began serving on the Fashion Leadership Board and State Teen Council, which provided avenues for me to facilitate, develop career skills, and learn to effectively delegate.

My proudest 4-H moment by far, was being slated as a part of the 2020-2021 Kentucky 4-H Officer Team and serving a fulfilling term as Vice President. Our term of four young leaders started “in the eye of the storm” so to speak. Although a pandemic loomed, it became clear that we would need to think outside of the box to optimize our impact. I can confidently say the need was met! From tractor parades, radio interviews, board meetings and camps, my last year as a 4-H youth participant was well spent. However, my heart ached a little knowing that it was time to close my chapter as a youth participant.

Little did I know then, my career as a 4-H Alumna was just getting started. Earlier this year I was selected to serve on the 4-H Young Alumni Advisory Council, the youth voice of National 4-H. I am honored and elated to get to serve with other like-minded college students who truly believe in “making the best better.” During my training as a new member of the council, I spent several days in our nation’s capital meeting elected officials, discussing the future of Agriculture with U.S. Dairy Export Council President Krysta Hardin, and attending the 4-H Legacy Awards. I have the unique honor of improving Kentucky’s 4-H program by representing our system on a national level, and for that, I am humbled and grateful.





Shooting Sports

State Program Leader: Ashley Marcum

The Kentucky 4-H Shooting Sports Program began in 1988 and is a nationally recognized program that focuses on fostering life skills and positive youth development through healthy competition, service, leadership, and education. Taking the slogan “learn by doing” to heart, the KY 4-H Shooting Sports program is built around hands on learning experiences. Under the guidance of certified instructors, youth have the chance to practice firearm safety and marksmanship in a variety of disciplines including archery, rifle, black powder, shotgun, pistol, and hunting & outdoor skills.

Shooting Sports Camp

Held annually in early April, this camp is open to all youth between the ages of 9 to 13 who have an interest in the 4-H shooting sports program. In 2022, over 70 youth from 14 counties attended camp, getting the opportunity to learn about and participate in all disciplines offered through the shooting sports program. Youth were also visited by guest speakers from the KY Dept. of Fish & Wildlife and the Liberty Nature Center as well as took part in a community service project.

Coaches Certification Workshops

In 2022 the 4-H shooting sports program certified 106 adult and teen volunteers from 43 counties as certified shooting sports instructors. Seventy-four of these volunteers were new to the program and 28 of them were teen leaders. Across the state our program has over 890 certified adult and teen leaders.

Shooting Sports State Competition

Held annually in early September, this event is a 2-day competition serving as the culminating event for youth within the program. In 2022 there were 990 youth registered for the event with 69 counties represented.

- 606 individuals competed on Saturday in over 1,800 events within rifle, pistol, archery, and black powder disciplines.
- 489 individuals competed on Sunday in the shotgun discipline with over 32,000 clay targets shot.
- Over 300 county and state level volunteers gave their time throughout the event.



“ I joined shooting sports 2 years ago as a shy young girl and thanks to my coaches and the people there, I have become more confident and have built a family in 4-H. ”

Sohpia Burns, Butler County

National 4-H Shooting Sports Championship

In the fall of 2021, the KY 4-H Shooting Sports Program developed parameters for its first ever National Teams in the disciplines of shotgun and muzzleloader. Participation on these two teams was a two-step process. First, the top 8 eligible youth in each discipline were selected after competing in the KY State Competition held in September. For the next 8 months these youth worked with certified instructors within their discipline, practicing and developing the necessary skills required to compete at the national level. In the spring each team competed amongst themselves in a selection event. The top 5 youth (4 competitors and 1 alternate) from this event in each discipline then made up the KY National Teams.



These 10 youth, along with their coaches, travelled to Grand Island, NE at the end of June for the National Championship. Thirty-nine states and over 700 competitors took part in the event. Lasting 5 days, this event consisted of not only competition but opportunities for youth to meet their fellow competitors and create meaningful connections and friendships through the teen social and highly looked forward to "state pin exchange".

In their inaugural debut the KY National Shotgun Team placed 5th in Sporting Clays, and 6th overall team. Shotgun team member Charlie Castle (Clark Co.) placed 2nd in Sporting Clays, 5th in Skeet and 4th overall individual. While not all team members were as successful as they had hoped to be in competition, youth left the event with comments such as:

"This trip was a once in a lifetime opportunity that I would do again in a heartbeat. The development from 5 kids who shot against each other at state to one team at nationals was unbelievable and only possible from our coaches."

"I thought it was perfect. I will always remember this week; I think it was the coolest thing I've ever been able to do."

"I wouldn't trade the past week for anything."



Natural Resources

State Program Leader: Ashley Osborne

The Kentucky 4-H Natural Resources Program engages 4-H members in a variety of hands-on activities and experiences that foster an increased understanding and appreciation for Kentucky's natural resources. Projects and activities are offered in the areas of environmental science, entomology, forestry, geology, soils, water, wildlife, and shooting sports. A wide variety of county and state-level 4-H natural resources programs and projects are offered across the Commonwealth, including but not limited to nature, environmental, outdoor adventure, and shooting sports clubs, forestry field days, environmental education camps, and geology, insect, and leaf collection projects.

Natural Resources: Year in Review

From forestry field days to environmental camps to stream studies, this past program year has provided opportunities for youth across Kentucky to learn about and experience natural resources. From July 2021 to June 2022 county 4-H programs reported the following:

- 30,654 youth demonstrated a skill that was learned or improved by participating in 4-H Natural Resources programming.
- 20,977 youth used the skills and knowledge learned in 4-H to conserve natural resources.
- 26,246 youth gained an understanding of ecosystems in Kentucky.

Natural Resources Sciences Academy

The Kentucky 4-H Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (NRESci) Academy is a three-year program designed to teach youth about their natural environment. Each year of the three-year program, 4-H members participate in a variety of field exercises including stream sampling, forest measurement, wildlife surveying, and insect collection and identification, all while interacting with natural resources professionals from across the state. In Program Year 2021-2022, 42 4-H members from fourteen counties participated in the NRESci Academy.

Second and third year NRESci members had the opportunity to take part in a trip to the Burton 4-H Center in Tybee Island, Georgia. Youth participated in a variety of hands-on classes and learned about beach ecology, salt marshes, marine invertebrates, ornithology, and reptiles.



Kolton Zimmerman

Fayette County 4-H Member & NRESci Ambassador

My first experience with the Kentucky 4-H Natural Resources Program was when, as a 6th grader, I attended the 2018 NRESci Academy Fall Retreat. The NRESci Academy is a 3-year program for middle schoolers with each year focusing on a different aspect of natural resources in Kentucky. Each year there is a two-night retreat in the fall and 3 one day-long events. At my first retreat I learned about watersheds and how to determine water quality. In my second year of the NRESci Academy I discovered my love of forestry. At the retreat I learned how to measure the volume of wood in a tree, identify trees, and measure distance by pacing. Although my third year's retreat was cancelled due to Covid-19, I was still able to learn about trapping and wildlife habitat management virtually. Thanks to my experiences in the NRESci Academy, I decided to apply to become an NRESci Ambassador. As an ambassador I have taught classes to middle schoolers, advanced my leadership and public speaking skills, and was even able to go on a trip with the NRESci Academy to Tybee Island, Georgia.

One of the requirements of being in the NRESci program is to complete a community service project each year. For me, these projects have ranged from creating a watershed model to display on Arbor Day to planting trees at a park. This past year I organized the group community service project that the ambassadors do annually. We went to a city park in Lexington and removed invasive plant species such as Bush Honeysuckle, Poison Hemlock, and Winter Creeper. I have also been able to use what I have learned from the NRESci program to lead meetings of my county's nature club on several occasions.

This past year I have had the opportunity to be a member of the Kentucky 4-H Pollinator Pals. The Pollinator Pals are a group of high school 4-Hers from across the state of Kentucky. Our mission is to educate people on the importance of pollinators and how to help protect them. As a Pollinator Pal I attended the National 4-H Youth Summit on Agriscience in Washington D.C. in March. At this summit I was able to take classes on various natural resources subjects. I have promoted the importance of pollinators and protecting their habitat at several events, including the Kentucky State Fair. I am also working to install a pollinator garden at McConnell Springs in Lexington, Kentucky, which will be completed in the spring of 2023.

Furthermore, I've had the opportunity to participate in various natural resources competitions on the state level through 4-H. At Forestry Field Days I have tested my skills of Tree Measurement, Tree I.D., and Compass and Pacing. In addition to the aforementioned subjects I've competed in the categories of Tree Diseases and Topographic Maps at Senior Forestry Judging. I also had the privilege to compete in the first ever Kentucky 4-H Stream Team Competition this year. I have immensely enjoyed my experiences through the Kentucky 4-H Natural Resources Program, and these experiences have convinced me to pursue a degree in forestry when I attend college. I would encourage anyone with an interest in nature to participate in these programs as well.



Programs



Agriculture

State Program Leader: Ashley Osborne

The Kentucky 4-H Agricultural Science Program engages 4-H members in a variety of hands-on activities and experiences that cultivate an increased understanding and appreciation for agriculture. Projects and activities are offered in the areas of animal and food science, and plant and soil science. A wide variety of county agricultural 4-H programs are offered across the Commonwealth, including but not limited to: livestock, horse, rabbit, dog, and gardening clubs, country ham projects, agriculture field days, embryology in the classroom projects, and garden school enrichment programs.

Agriculture: Year in Review

From country ham projects to windowsill gardening programs to horse clinics, this past program year has provided opportunities for youth across Kentucky to learn about and experience agriculture. From July 2021 to June 2022 county 4-H programs reported the following:

- 21,706 youth demonstrated a skill that was learned or improved by participating in 4-H agriculture programming
- 26,118 youth who gained an understanding of the role of agriculture in the production of food, fiber, and wood products

Livestock Judging: Top 12 Week

Each year, the top 12 overall placing 4-H youth in the Senior Division at the Kentucky 4-H Livestock Judging Contest qualify to attend Top 12 Week. Youth attending Top 12 Week receive one week of intense training in evaluation of beef cattle, goats, sheep, and swine, as well as training in preparing and giving oral reasons.

During Top 12 Week youth will travel across Kentucky and parts of Indiana to visit 12-15 elite livestock operations to evaluate their livestock. During a typical Top 12 Week, youth will evaluate 50-60 classes of livestock and will give 25-30 sets of oral reasons. Despite this rigorous schedule, plenty of time is also set aside for youth to socialize with each other and to participate in some fun activities. At the conclusion of Top 12 Week, eight youth are selected to be a part of the Kentucky 4-H All-Star Livestock Judging Team. These eight youth will receive additional training in evaluation and oral reasons throughout the Fall. Additionally, these eight youth participate in several regional/national livestock judging contests. Of these eight youth, four are selected as the Kentucky 4-H All-Star Gold Livestock Judging Team. These four youth have the honor of representing Kentucky at the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest which is held each November as a part of the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Kentucky.

2022 Top 12 Participants: Caroline Mattingly, Sara Grace Mattingly, Lilly P'Pool, Caroline Groth, Blake Dailey, Bristol Wallace, Daniel Laurent, Laken White, Addeline Conger, Katy Trimble, Noah Peake, and Harlee Watson.

Sara Grace Mattingly, Lilly P'Poole, Noah Peake, and Caroline Groth represented Kentucky at the 2022 National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest at NAILE with alternate Bristol Wallace.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers and staff that make Top 12 Week possible and assist with the Kentucky 4-H All-Star Livestock Judging Team!



Laken White

2022 Top 12 Participant

I have been a part of my local livestock judging team since I was nine years old. To say I have enjoyed this organization is an understatement. Not only have I learned how to evaluate livestock, but I have also made countless memories and friends. This past fall I had the opportunity to judge with the Kentucky 4-H All-Star Livestock Judging Team. Through this experience, I was able to travel to several different states, visit several farms, and compete in numerous competitions. Along the way, my teammates and I always found time to laugh and spend time together. My favorite memories include the last nights we spent reading through our Bibles and discussing scripture. I will forever be grateful for the 4-H livestock program.





Camping

State Program Leader: Joey Barnard

The Kentucky 4-H Camping Program aims to improve people through intentional life skill development. This happens through collaboration with local, state, and national partners, research-based programming, service-oriented practices, long-term strategic planning, and play. Camp programs are designed to provide youth opportunities to master activity skills such as archery, climbing, recreation, swimming, and more, while also fostering the development of life skills like independence, decision-making, group work, leadership, and communication. For many families across the Commonwealth, attending one of our four 4-H Camps is a tradition that spans multiple generations.

Camping Program Experiences

Special Events

Camp Directors, Extension Staff, Specialists, and Volunteers led various special events at camp to promote family fun. Those events included “Chacos-N-Tacos”, “KY Envirothon”, “Teen Retreats”, and “Winter WonderCamp”.

Summer Camp

The four 4-H Camps hosted a traditional overnight camp program for all 120 counties in Kentucky. This was the 2nd highest attended summer in Kentucky 4-H camping history with 12,402 camp participants (9,727 youth, 1,206 teens, 1,242 adults, and 227 extension staff). West Kentucky 4-H Camp experienced a record high attendance of 3,466 camp participants.

Environmental Education Camp

More than 50 schools participated in Environmental Education at one of our four camp locations. The curriculum is a great supplement to the Next Generation Science Standards and many of the same 4th and 5th grade classes return year after year to learn about the Natural Resources in their area. More than 3,300 students participated in Environmental Education Camp this year.

Camping Curriculum Pieces

- Camp Magic, Curriculum for Kentucky 4-Hers
- Summer Camp Shooting Sports, Climbing, Recreation, Nature, and Swimming Lesson Plans
- Kentucky Mammals
- Healthy Outdoor Meals
- Bird Adaptations
- Lake Study
- Night Hike
- Enviroscope





Kentucky State Fair

State Program Leader: Kim Leger

The Kentucky State Fair hosts 4-H projects from across the state in Cloverville. Cloverville consists of 18 divisions where 4-Hers can showcase their projects. 4-Hers can be involved in Cloverville in a variety of ways, from exhibiting projects, conducting demonstrations, and performing talents on stage. In order to exhibit a 4-H project in Cloverville, 4-Hers must first compete in their county and be selected as the grand champion in the class. These grand champions advance to the Kentucky State Fair and are exhibited in Cloverville where they are judged on the Danish System. Kentucky 4-H believes that all youth should have opportunities for positive youth development in four guiding concepts: mastery, belonging, independence and generosity. The Kentucky State Fair 4-H events demonstrate a 4-Her's level of mastery in project work through completion of displayed items.

2022 Kentucky State Fair

The Kentucky State Fair offers 4-H members a culminating event of yearly project work where project work is defined by including the following: “(a) Planned work in an area of interest to the 4-H member, (b) Guided by a 4-H adult volunteer who is the project leader, (c) Aimed at planned objectives that can be attained and measured, (d) Summarized by some form of record keeping, and (e) A minimum of six hours of project instruction” (National 4-H Council, 2013). In 2022, Kentucky 4-H members exhibited and participated in 4,888 4-H projects and competitions in Cloverville. Of those projects, 4-H Youth exhibited 2,850 livestock projects that included beef, dairy, dairy goats, market goats, sheep, and swine. Therefore, Kentucky 4-H members spent a total of 46,428 hours enhancing their skills through hands-on project work.

Cloverville Project and Competition Entries	4,888
4-H Livestock Entries	
Beef	688
Dairy	639
Dairy goats	53
Market goats	346
Youth sheep	523
Swine	601
Total projects	7,738

Civic Engagement & Service

State Program Leader: Chuck Stamper

4-H Civic Engagement involves working to make a positive difference in one's community and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference (Erich, 2000). 4-H youth engage within communities on many scales--from local to state--making contributions that reinforce their sense of purpose and strengthening their sense of belonging with peers and community adults. It is our hope in the Kentucky 4-H Civic Engagement & Service Program that 4-Hers will make a positive difference by engaging in learning opportunities that give them a heightened sense of responsibility and capacity to connect as active members of their communities, nation and world.

Issues Conference

The Kentucky 4-H Issues Conference is designed to give 4-Hers the opportunity to learn the process for addressing issues in their communities while working with adults who have vested interests in the communities where they live and work. This year the 4-H Issues Conference tackled some tough issues ranging from mental health to college and career choice. Seventy-five participants from 30 counties attended the conference held this year at the JM Feltner 4-H Center in London, KY. The conference was selected to be the lead story on the WYMT-TV news.

The importance of service in the community is recognized at the conference. Delegates were given the option to work on two projects this year. One choice was lap quilts for cancer patients and the second option was pet toys for animal shelters. After leaving the conference, Delegates have the opportunity to apply for a mini-grant to support a local issue they want to address using the process skills they learned.

When asked about the impact of 4-H Issues Conference, Mollie Webb, a Barren County 4-Her, said:

“For me, Issues Conference was the seed in my 4-H experience. As a Teen Member, Issues Conference was an inspiration for me to go the next step in pursuing leadership and civic engagement in 4-H. 4-H Issues Conference started as a seed that has allowed me to grow into a confident, passionate, more intentional mindset. There are no words that can express my gratitude for what this conference has done for me and the positive experiences I have gained from it.”

Civic Engagement & Service Quick Facts

- 53,462 hours of service contributed in 2022
- 2,364 youth who designed and completed an educational program based on civic need (community service project)
- 9,463 Number of youth who participated in Civic Education and Engagement educational programs





Kentucky 4-H Foundation

Kentucky 4-H Foundation

Executive Director: Melissa Miller

The Kentucky 4-H Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the financial support of the Kentucky 4-H Youth Development Program. The Foundation is a partner of the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, 4-H Youth Development.

Kentucky 4-H is a proven, researched-based program that makes a difference in the lives of today's youth. 4-H promotes the full development of young people, while instilling strong values and morals. It fosters life skills, positive self-esteem, citizenship, and leadership skills in a "learn-by-doing" approach that helps participants become contributing, productive, and self-directed members of society.



As I look back at 2022, I am mindful of all that has happened both in Kentucky and around the world over the last year.

- In December 2021, Western Kentucky youth and communities were devastated by tornados.
- Facing inflation, families began cutting expenses like 4-H camp, livestock projects, trips, etc.
- This summer, flooding devastated many families' lives in Eastern Kentucky.

Through all of this, Kentucky 4-H was a resource for 138,602 youth across the Commonwealth. With a presence in all 120 counties, agents and volunteers provided kids opportunities to THRIVE within their

communities – and beyond. When youth thrive their families and communities do too. In 2022, donor support to the Foundation created many opportunities for 4-Hers to learn, grow, and succeed. For example:

- Over \$145,000 sent directly to counties to fund new, innovative, and proven 4-H programs.
- \$82,000+ in scholarships allowing youth opportunities to travel to places like camp, State Teen Conference, National Conference and Congress, and international exchange trips.
- 11,000+ youth were back at full capacity summer camp where donor funding allowed 4-H to contract a dedicated mental health professional to support youth in crisis.
- The Foundation directly supported 50+ families affected by flooding and tornadoes in Kentucky through the 4-Hers Helping 4-Hers Relief Fund.

While we don't know what 2023 holds, time has shown that Kentucky 4-H will be in your community providing opportunities for all youth to thrive – no matter what. On behalf of our Board of Directors and staff, thank you to the countless donors and volunteers who help Kentucky youth THRIVE.

Melissa Miller

Executive Director
Kentucky 4-H Foundation

Revenue

Contributions & Grants	\$920,752
Program Services	\$504,219
Investment Income	\$400,422
Total Revenue	\$1,825,393

Expenses

Foundation Operating	\$224,800
Fundraising	\$47,016
Program Service	\$971,944
Total Expenses	\$689,208

Assets

Foundation Operating	\$5,816,791
Fundraising	\$6,505,999
Change in Assets	+ \$689,208

Leadership Circle

The Kentucky 4-H Foundation is fortunate to work with numerous individuals, businesses, and community organizations to fulfill our mission of funding opportunities for Kentucky's 4-Hers. While our mission remains the same, the needs of 4-Hers, program staff, and volunteers can drastically change and without notice. We are extremely grateful for the flexibility allowed by gifts made to the Foundation's Annual Fund. Leadership Circle members are those donors who give \$1,000 or higher to the annual fund. These donations to the allow the Foundation to meet the varying needs of the Kentucky 4-H program. The Kentucky 4-H Foundation Leadership Circle was established in 2011 as a way of recognizing our appreciation of these generous donors.

2021 Leadership Circle Donors

Steve and Melanie Kelley**

George and Ruth Duncan**

Dr. Jerry Westerfield**

Steve and Eleni Caddell**

Glen & Becky Kinder

Bill Howard

David and Roberta Wallace

Debra Chaney

Keith and Holly Rogers

Dr. Brent Hutchinson*

Charlene Jacobs

Helen Horton

Sandra Frazier

Dr. Larry Westerfield

Ryan and Misty Bivens

Kristen Smith

Owensboro Grain Company

Paul Hall & Associates

Kentucky Retail Federation

Duane Miksch

Cathy Kunkel-Mains

Chappell R. Wilson

Community Medical Services

Pam Larson

Kentucky Livestock Marketing Association

Jake Fink

Kentucky State Horticultural Society

Dennis Cannon

Mark Mains

Ben Car*

Aaron and Melissa Miller

Marcia Hicks*

Jaclyn Walden*

Steve and Nancy Wills

Bill and Jane Smith

Central Kentucky Ag Credit

**Monthly Recurring*

***Lifetime Leadership Circle*

Kentucky 4-H & University of Kentucky

In Kentucky 4-H, we like to say “4-H is the first class you take at the University of Kentucky.” Because of Kentucky 4-H’s unique connection to the University through the Cooperative Extension Service, many youth have access to the University through the many partnerships 4-H has with various University departments and units. Participation in Kentucky 4-H can lead to higher education opportunities at the University of Kentucky. In the past year, many 4-H youth gained exposure to these opportunities through 4-H events held on campus. Additionally, many former 4-H members are currently enrolled at UK in one or more of the school’s degree programs. Former 4-Hers are enrolled in 14 of the University’s 16 college departments.

Campus 4-H Event/program Attendance by 4-H Youth

Total: 327

Average Per County: 5.1

Former 4-Hers currently enrolled at UK

Total: 233



Past 4-H President Kiersten Dotson speaks to 4-H and FFA youth at the 2022 4-H/FFA Field Day, an event that exposes youth to students and professors in a variety of agriculture fields at the University of Kentucky.