

Edmonson County **COOPERATIVE EXTENSION** *Report to the People*

YEAR 2024- 2025

Cooperative Extension and its programs provide education you can trust by helping individuals, families, businesses, and communities solve problems, develop skills, and build a better future for our community.



Edmonson County, KY was formed in 1825 and named for Captain John "Jack" Edmonson (1764–1813), who was killed at the Battle of Frenchtown during the War of 1812. During 2025, Edmonson County will celebrate its bicentennial since being founded.

Here are just a few of the services that we offer:

- Reality Store, STOP
- Poultry Projects
- Fair Projects
- 4-H School Clubs
 - South Edmonson & Kyrock Elementary
 - EC Middle & High School Teen
 - ECHS Horticulture & Crochet Clubs
- 4-H Horse Club
- 4-H/Edmonson County Public Library Clubs
 - Lego Club
 - Homeschool Club
- 4-H Art & Cooking Clubs
- 4-H Fishing Club
- Adulting 101
- Classroom demonstrations
- Field Day/Safety Days
- Private Pesticide Applicator Training
- Beef Quality and Care Assurance (BQCA)
- Dealing with Fescue Toxicosis
- Hay & Pasture Renovation & Maintenance
- Food Preservation Classes
- NEP/Snap-Ed programs
- Homemakers
- Cooking Demonstrations

EDMONSON COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE INFORMATION



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Cooperative Extension Service

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

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.

Lexington, KY 40506



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Edmonson County COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Report to the People

4-H Youth Development



A longitudinal study of 4-H by Tufts University revealed young people involved in 4-H programs have a consistently higher level of positive youth development, contributions to their community, and increased life skills. "The results of this longitudinal study continually reinforce the idea that when youth participate in programs such as 4-H, they thrive in numerous ways including health, positive development, and community contribution," said Dr. Richard Lerner. " (Source: National 4-H Council).

Our 4-H programs have been busy this past year growing our school, community, and special interest clubs. Because of our community partners and their belief in 4-H, we have been able to add clubs and programming to every student attending school in Edmonson County. Starting in the fall of 2024, we were able to extend that reach to our Homeschool families through the leadership of our FCS/ 4-H agent Laura-Grace and our wonderful partnership with the Edmonson County Public Library.

Because of our community support and top-notch volunteers, our youth have had the opportunity to participate in county, state, and area contests representing Edmonson County. This past year, we were proud to boast grand champions and reserve champions in the State Fair Cloverville, Cupcake Wars, State Written and Demonstration Communications contests.

One of our most memorable times in the summer is when we travel to the West Kentucky 4-H Camp grounds for 4-H Camp and Cloverbud Camp. From Edmonson County, there were 101 in attendance from Edmonson County between the two camps. The cost of 4-H camp this past year was \$300 and \$150 for Cloverbud Camp. Through the generous funding of our District Board, Ag Tag campaign, fundraising, and community sponsors, we were able to make the camp minimum cost \$150 for each youth camper in our county or less.

A group of our deserving volunteers traveled to the Kentucky Volunteer Forum in Lexington to receive awards and participate in professional development opportunities to bring back to Edmonson County to benefit our youth.

We were represented by 9 volunteers at KVF either receiving Hall of Fame Awards for leadership, community service, master accreditation, horse, and teamwork. We can't wait for KVF 2026!

Each year our numbers continue to grow with returning and new youth, teen leaders, and adult volunteers which make our programs a success!



Bridgett Poteet

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENT



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Family & Consumer Sciences



Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) programming focuses on areas that are designed to make families, individuals, and communities more aware of how to lead healthier, happier, and more productive lives. The Edmonson County Homemakers have been a staple in the community for nearly a century and they are one of the largest civic and volunteer organizations in our county. Constantly looking for ways to better the community, the Edmonson County Homemakers strive to do their part to increase the values of lives in our county. The organization is continually working to recruit new members in an ever-changing society. Building the capacity of volunteer leaders within counties is critical for the sustainability of a community infrastructure that supports long-term commitment to strengthen families. To cultivate these leaders in Edmonson County, Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Extension is very active with the Edmonson County Homemakers, a division of the Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association (KEHA). While there are only 3 traditional clubs in our county, these club members make a difference by participating in backpack programs, food pantry drives, recycling projects, school enrichment activities, 4-H activities, community events, and volunteering for extension programs. The idea behind the 1st annual EC Homemaker's Meet and Greet was to promote the vision and goals of their organization and to hopefully increase membership and/or start some new clubs in our county. We served a delicious breakfast, had 2 hands-on craft stations set up for attendees to take part in, each current club president spoke about their club, the FCS agent gave an overview of Extension and KEHA, and we gave away lots of wonderful door-prizes.

32 people attended this event, we had 3 attendees sign up to be mailbox members, 2 joined an existing club and we have 3 groups in the process of starting new Homemaker Clubs this year! As we continue to get the word out about KEHA and "Homemakers" we anticipate that we will continue to grow our membership. This is an event we plan to do each year!



Laura-Grace Vincent
**FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENT**



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Ag & Natural Resources



 **Martin-Gatton**
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
David Embrey
AG/NATURAL RESOURCES
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENT

According to the latest Census of Agriculture Edmonson County has 81,589 acres of land used for agricultural purposes. About 73% is used for pasture and hay production. Several ruminant, and other species are raised on these acres, to include beef and dairy cattle, horses, meat goats, sheep, pastured poultry, and even wildlife, however, not all wildlife species are welcome by producers. In today's economy many producers are searching for ways to improve production and utilization of forages to increase profits, control unwanted pests, and better manage their operation.

On May 18, 2024 the Edmonson County U.K. Cooperative Extension Service conducted a spring field day hosted by the Jones Farm on State Highway 185 near Roundhill, KY, where the owners have been working with the local Extension Agent for Agriculture on improving pastures. Over 60 people attended. The topics covered were: Forages and Rotational Grazing/fencing systems; Pastured Poultry; Wildlife; and Small Ruminant Handling/working Facilities. Extension Specialists, County Soil Conservation personnel, Kentucky State University Area Ag Agents, and the Edmonson County Extension Agents gave instruction on each topic. At the conclusion of the field day, attendees were asked if the field day topics presented were helpful to them.

100% of respondents indicated that they gained knowledge that will: 1. Help them improve their production practices. 2. Help them make better decisions. and 3. Implement new practices to increase/sustain production. The majority of respondents found the Small Ruminant Handling/working Facilities topic to be most helpful with Forages and Rotational Grazing/fencing systems a close second. Several participants shared positive comments about the field day, especially on the small ruminant working facilities demonstration and the pastured poultry demo.

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Community and Economic Development

Farmers and farm families have been facing many stressful situations over the past few years. Mental and physical health issues among farmers are increasingly being brought to the forefront in our society and in the news. However, it is a sensitive topic that a lot of farmers are not comfortable discussing. Healthy farms start with healthy farm families. The Edmonson County Health and Wellness Fair was a collaborative program sponsored by the EC Cattleman's Association, Dr. Cheryl Witt-Agriculture Extension Specialist with UK, Edmonson County Soil Conservation, A+ Family Healthcare and our office, Edmonson County Cooperative Extension. The goal of this community wide event was to help raise awareness of the importance of good mental and physical health especially for our farm families. Throughout the 5-hour event, participants visited booths where they could get various health checks and received information on health topics, including healthy eating, cancer prevention, mental health, and physical fitness.



RAISING HOPE™
Supporting Healthy Lives on Kentucky Farms

KENTUCKY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

May 9, 2024
At 12 - 5 PM

COME JOIN US FOR A

HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR
@ THE EDMONSON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

At our Wellness Fair, you'll have the opportunity to:

- Free Health Screenings
- Free Health Information
- Giveaways
- Discuss mental health

Sponsored By: A+ Family Healthcare, & Edmonson County Soil Conservation Office

Guest: Cheryl Witt
Agriculture Extension Specialist Senior Family and Consumer Sciences

Edmonson County Cattleman's Association

4+ Family HealthCare
CARE IS WHAT WE DO

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SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS OF KENTUCKY
The Soil is in our Hands

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