

# TODD COUNTY EXTENSION

KENTUCKY  KENTUCKY STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

## 2024-2025 Report to the People

### TODD COUNTY EXTENSION EARNS CHAMBER AWARD

Todd County Extension was recognized as the Chamber's Organization of the Year in 2024.

This award recognizes Extension's outstanding contributions to the community through its educational programs for youth and adults, agricultural support, and community development initiatives. The award highlights Extension's commitment to enhancing the quality of life for residents and fostering economic growth in Todd County.

Extension owes much gratitude for our community's support. Our volunteers, local leaders, and donors have helped make new programs possible. With

new office and meeting facilities built in 2023 and the recent addition of an outdoor arena, Todd County Extension is even better equipped to meet community needs here in Todd County.



***DID YOU KNOW...*** The Todd County Extension Office had over 25,000 direct contacts with residents last program year. This included program attendance, diagnostic work, farm visits, walk-in visits, calls, and newsletter subscriptions.



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## HORTICULTURE CONFERENCE STRENGTHENS AG PRODUCTION

Todd County is ranked 2nd in Kentucky for the value of vegetables sold, exceeding 3.4 million dollars according to the 2022 Census of Agriculture. Extension programs that support commercial horticulture are vital because of its importance to our local economy. Additionally, strengthening the local food and agriculture industry is one of the top three issues identified in University of Kentucky Extension's Todd County needs assessment.

The Todd County Agriculture Agent and Christian County Horticulture Agent partner with the Fairview Produce Auction to offer educational programs to serve local producers. These programs aim to help growers better manage pests, strengthen yields, and ensure food safety.

Most recently, the West Kentucky Commercial Horticulture Conference was held in December 2024. Seventy commercial horticulture producers from Todd, Christian, and nearby counties participated and learned about:

- High Tunnel Tomato Production
- Hanging Basket Production
- Produce Harvest & Handling Safety
- New Strawberry Disease
- Sweet Corn Production

Additionally, local farmers learned about services provided by Extension. Extension saw an increase in requests for farm visits and newsletters after this conference. Farmers needing Produce Safety certification reached out to Extension and will complete training and certification here in February 2025.

This partnership will continue with a Twilight Tour field day, planned for June 2025 at a local farm. Tour talks will feature common pests of vegetable crops and management options.



## REACHING OUT — A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS

**47,277**

Family &  
Consumer  
Sciences  
Social Media  
Engagements  
in 2024

**580**

4th - 12th  
graders are  
involved in  
4-H camps &  
programs

**473**

Farmers  
received  
monthly  
Farm  
Production/  
Management  
Information

**84**

Limited  
resource  
families and  
youth  
graduated  
from  
Nutrition  
Education  
Programs

**112**

Adults serve  
on Extension  
Councils,  
boards and/  
or serve as  
volunteer  
leaders for  
clubs in  
Todd County

# 4-H LIVESTOCK CLUB WON THE HERDSMAN AWARD AT THE KENTUCKY STATE FAIR AFTER A WINNING SHOW SEASON



The Todd County 4-H Livestock Club grew from one to 10 members in 2024. Members showed sheep at the first Todd County Fair in the new Extension arena and won the coveted Herdsman Award at the Kentucky State Fair all in one year! All but one of these youth were newcomers to the show arena. Under the leadership of Billy Carter and teen leader, Meredith Hampton, the youth won top honors at nearly every county fair they visited; won Grand Champion Hair Sheep at the Kentucky State Fair and won the Herdsman Award proving that this club had the best overall display, the cleanest work area, best kept lambs and the most spirit! The end of year banquet revealed the following lessons learned throughout their show season:



*The Todd County 4-H Livestock Club won the Herdsman Award at the Kentucky State Fair, showcasing hard work, determination & sportsmanship.*

100% gained responsibility and commitment in caring for lambs, as regular feeding, grooming, and health checks are essential.

100% gained patience, perseverance and sportsmanship in dealing with wins and losses and learning curves throughout the summer lamb project.

## COOKING THROUGH THE CALENDAR

The Todd County Health Coalition established goals, set objectives, and identified strategies to make citizens of Todd County healthier. One of the goals was to increase community access and awareness to improve physical health. To help reach that goal, a Facebook live monthly educational cooking series called “Cooking through the Calendar” was created to highlight healthy food options for community members.



Utilizing recipes from the Food & Nutrition Recipe Calendar from the University of Kentucky Nutrition Education Program, Todd County Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences brought in community guests on the first Thursday of each month at 11:30 to go live on Facebook. The agent and guest demonstrated the recipe and discussed community resources offered by that agency. Some of the agencies included the health department, aging and independent living, employment services, Chamber of Commerce, as well as a pastor at a local church that offers different ministries such as grief, celebrate recovery, and narcotics anonymous.

The cooking series has proved a great way to reach people indirectly and continues in 2025.



# NUTRITION ASSISTANT EMPOWERS YOUTH TO BE SUPERSTAR CHEFS

Super Star Chef is a 3-day hands-on cooking and nutrition program designed to empower youths with basic cooking skills and lay the foundation for healthy eating habits. Cooking is also a life skill that supports math, science, language, social emotional development, physical development and cognitive development.

The Todd County Nutrition Education Program (NEP) Assistant taught youth hands-on food preparation skills, kitchen and appliance use, food safety procedures, nutrition education, and physical activity. Fifteen youth, ages 9-12, participated in the program.

Pre-and post-test were administered to all students. The results also showed that 92% improved their abilities to choose healthier foods; 62% gained more knowledge of safe food handling; 58% planned to spend more time in the kitchen preparing simple, nutritious, meals; 69% gained skills necessary to improve their physical activity practices; and 75% intended to try new foods.



## THANK YOU, EXTENSION ARENA DONORS!

Thank you to our Extension Arena Campaign donors for sponsoring gate panels for the new Extension Arena—Coming Soon!

### \$1,000 Arena Campaign Donors

McGhee Engineering / Peggy Moore Estate / Todd County Farm Bureau

### \$750 Arena Campaign Donors

Daniel Beaty Construction

### \$500 Arena Campaign Donors

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Kelvin DeBerry

### \$250 Arena Campaign Donors

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Safe Harbor Sanctuary / Joe & Heather Coleman / Travis Combs / Todd County Ag Service / Simon Farms / Elkton Bank & Trust  
Wofford Family Farm-Guthrie KY / Logan County Cattleman's Association / Boley Landscaping / Reynolds Painting  
Home Front Real Estate / In Memory of Peggy Shackelford / Ag Explore / Carter Farms / Scott Shackelford / Melmsgard Performance Horses  
& Training / Bolinger Real Estate and Auction / In Memory of Wade Harris, "Granddaddy" / McCuiston Farms



# 107

107 donors gave to the Todd County Extension Arena Campaign, bringing in over \$35,000 for our new Extension and Fair Board Arena. Special thanks to Kelvin DeBerry for heading up this campaign!

## 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

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, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English.  
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