

REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

2024



Did you know...

Robertson County is the smallest county in population, and the second smallest in area with one hundred square miles of land

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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AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Beef Producers Educated on Fescue Toxicity

The Beef Field Day has been a staple program in Robertson County for years. We have held this program on farms across the county and covered a wide array of topics that are helpful to our farmers and beef producers. In 2024, the Beef Field Day was hosted by Tom Mueller and our main speaker was Dr. Ray Smith, UK Forage Specialist. Dr. Smith presented on fescue toxicity in beef cattle and also led the group in a pasture walk. There was over 100 people in attendance, including 4-H and Cloverbud members, FFA members (who cooked and served the meal), Cattlemen's members, and so many more. Attendees were given several extension publications on fescue toxicity and also weed control in pastures.



Country Ham Project Continues to Grow

The country ham program was brought to Robertson County in 2019. This program traditionally is for 4-H members to learn the curing process of a country ham. However, in Robertson County, community members are also able to participate. In 2024, we cured 52 hams, 20 of which were 4-H members' and the remaining community members.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

Food Preservation Class to Address Community Need

On the most recent Needs Assessment for Robertson County, addressing food insecurity and food preservation rated Very High as a concern. In response to this the Robertson County Extension Office provided a food preservation class focusing on water bath canning.

Attendees were introduced to the fundamentals of water bath canning, a technique that uses boiling water to process jars of food, ensuring they are sealed and shelf-stable. This method is particularly suited for high-acid foods, making it ideal for the recipes chosen for the class.

Participants took on the delightful challenge of canning two distinct and delicious recipes: bread and butter pickles and blueberry lavender jelly. The process involved careful preparation and attention to detail, from selecting the freshest ingredients to mastering the precise timing needed for a perfect seal.

This class not only provided practical skills but also fostered a sense of community and shared learning among the participants.



4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Youth Dive Deeper into Animal Science

This comprehensive program engaged youth participants in a diverse array of topics including Sheep, Beef, Dairy, Kentucky Reptiles, and Buffalo. On the first day, the program commenced with a visit to a local sheep producer, where participants observed the intricate process of sheep shearing. The youth then engaged in hands-on activities such as making homemade mozzarella and ice cream, and spinning wool. The second day, the group visited a major Beef Cattle Operation, where they learned about various equipment used in cattle management, including Artificial Insemination tools. The day continued with a visit to Blackfish Bison Ranch, where participants explored buffalo pelts, skeletons, and other related artifacts. The final day participants toured the KY Reptile Zoo, gaining insights into the state's reptile resources and the zoo's role in venom extraction for research and medicinal purposes. Then wrapped up the trip at Kate's Petting Zoo, with youth having the opportunity to visit with goats, pigs, chickens and a variety of other animals.



Capturing Creativity: Robertson County Youth Learn Photography Skills

Robertson County youth are showcasing their photography skills through the 4-H program, learning essential techniques like point of view, exposure, and editing. Their hard work paid off as their photos were entered into competitions, with the opportunity to be displayed in the 4-H Exhibit at the Germantown Fair's Floral Hall.

Robertson County 4-H'ers had their photos featured at the Kentucky State Fair in Cloverville, gaining recognition for their creativity and technical skills. Through this experience, students have gained valuable skills that will continue to serve them as they pursue their passion for photography. Their accomplishments are a testament to the power of creativity and learning in the Robertson County 4-H program.



Robertson County Youth Recognized as 10 Year Members

At the 2024 Kentucky Volunteer Forum, Robertson County was honored to have three youth recognized as 10 year 4-H members. These three individuals have been involved in 4-H since they were eligible at 9 years old. They will all be graduating in May 2025 from Robertson County School. The three individuals were: Colby Cooper, Sindole Gifford, and Hadleigh Linville.





450

Robertson County
Homemaker Volunteer
Hours

52

Number of Youth (5-18) engaged
in NR 4-H programming

56

Number of people who improved or
maintained record keeping practices

34

Number of people who plan to
incorporate more salads into meal
planning and preparation to increase
vegetable consumption.

11

Number of Volunteers (19+)
engaged in 4-H Summer
Camping

102

Number of producers who Develop and implement a
herd health protocol and improve animal health
practices (i.e. follow BOA guidelines, read and follow
product labels and obey withdrawal periods, record
animal treatments, improve animal handling/welfare
skills



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