



Report To The People

Crittenden County 2022

DID YOU KNOW.....During Marion's water crisis, Crittenden County Extension handed out informative materials on conserving water and gave out 36 free or reduced rain barrels.



Outdoor Learning Garden

The family farm is slowly dwindling with less than 2% of the U.S. population contributing to our food systems. Providing Agriculture Literacy is important now more than ever. Children are sometimes not aware of where their food comes from. Statistics say that most people are three to four generations removed from the farm. The future of agriculture and food production depends on the next generation. Raising agriculturally literate youth is important to our future and children are eager to learn. Creating a hands-on learning environment is the perfect way to get children excited about agriculture and create a better understanding of where our food comes from. Thanks to an Agriculture Mini Grant provided by the Kentucky 4-H Foundation and matching funds provided by Riley Marine, students at Crittenden County Elementary School will now have a place to explore and learn. A garden area at the elementary school has been a vision for 4-H Youth Development Agent Leslea Barnes and is now a reality thanks to this funding. A 2,500 square foot area was developed with a 10'X10' pollinator area focusing on attracting Monarch butterflies. This area hosts a butterfly bush, milkweed, cone flowers, black eyed susan's, daisies, sedum, and hollyhocks.

Program Efforts

- 307 - The number of youth and adults who engaged in volunteer service in their communities through the 4-H program.
- 582 – Number of youth who demonstrated a skill that was learned or improved by participating in 4-H agriculture programming.
- 249 – Number of youth who experienced improved social skills and/or self-efficacy.
- 403 – Number of hours KEHA members volunteered in community activities and events.
- 25 – Number of individuals that take on formal or informal leadership roles as a result of participation in an Extension leadership program.
- 24 – Number of individuals who gained knowledge related to financial management.
- 20 – Number of producers who adopted practices to maintain or improve animal health – including parasites.
- 137 – Number of people who collected soil samples for testing.

Turn Around

It has been several years since there was an EFNEP paraprofessional in the Crittenden County Extension Office. During that time, she was conducting Community Christmas classes with Healthy Choices for Every Body where the current SNAP-Ed Assistant got her start with the program as a client of hers. A working wife and mother of three she needed help with Christmas. The EFNEP Assistant made



arrangements to provide lessons after hours and on her lunch break so the client could complete the program. Her determination and compassion for her clients and her job changed the

life of our new assistant. So, when the EFNEP Assistant retired, she knew she wanted that job. She wanted to be able to help low-income families like her however, it would be several years before she could do so. But here we are today, and proud to have a new SNAP-Ed Assistant in Crittenden County. With the program changing from EFNEP to SNAP-Ed there are more opportunities to work with adults, including seniors and the youth of Crittenden County. So, to follow in the EFNEP Assistants footsteps the SNAP-Ed Assistant has teamed up with Interagency of Crittenden County to get the word out and conduct new Community Christmas classes with the Healthy Choices for Every Body curriculum. Currently there are 10 clients on their way to earning their Healthy Choices for Every Body Certificate of Achievement. This program has helped the current SNAP-Ed Assistant make a full circle from client to assistant. It just goes to show you that the Nutrition Education Program can change people's lives and for that we are thankful.

High Fertilizer Prices Create Decisions to Pinch Pennies

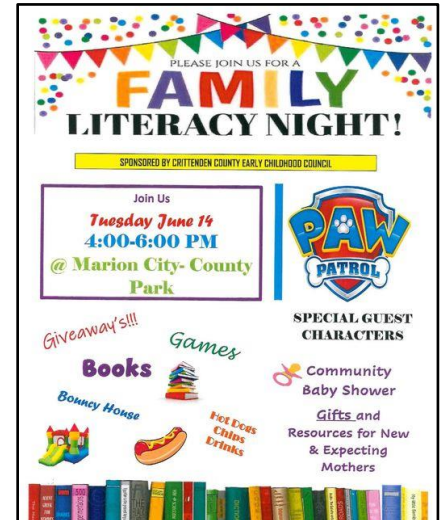
Fertilizer prices have increased drastically over the past year. This increase has caused several producers to question whether they should cut fertilizer rates on their hay fields. One Crittenden County hay producer called ANR Agent Dee Heimgartner to ask her advice on what type of nitrogen fertilizer should be used. The producer knew that his hay supply would be short for the number of cows he has if he didn't do at least a little fertilizer so he made the decision to add 50 pounds of nitrogen per acre to ensure good growth on his grass hay. He then came to the question of which type of fertilizer would be most economical between urea and ammonium nitrate. Utilizing prices that the producer had obtained from local farm stores, the

agent sat down and calculated the price per pound of nitrogen for each fertilizer using the calculators on the UK Regulatory Services page. The calculators determined it was \$0.12 per pound of nitrogen cheaper to use the urea fertilizer. While that may not sound like much savings at 50 pounds of nitrogen per acre that is a savings of \$6.00 per acre for the producer. The urea was also at a farm store that is 10 miles closer to his home so he is saving fuel by not driving an extra 20 miles round trip to pick up and drop off the fertilizer spreader from the farm store.

Family Literacy Night

The more prepared children are both academically and emotionally for kindergarten, the more successful learners they will become. Which is why Kindergarten Readiness has become so important to our young children. Kindergarten

readiness means *children enter school with basic skills, knowledge, and attitudes that will help them learn and play in the classroom*. According to KY stats, only 44% of incoming kindergarteners in Kentucky were Kindergarten Ready, leaving a void of almost 60%. Our Family and Consumer Sciences Agent serves on the Crittenden County Early Childhood Council which received a grant to help students in our community become better prepared as they enter Kindergarten. Along with community partners, a Family Literacy Night was held this past summer to promote Kindergarten Readiness in families. Over 100 families attended the event that hosted special book characters dressed up to greet the kids, bouncy houses, and free food for those attending. Those who attended were also given books, games and other items to help better prepare their children for school.



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