



## Floyd County 4-H Newsletter



### Youth Ag Days

Floyd County Extension hosted our first ever Youth Ag Days. 170 students in third and fourth grade attend. During their day the students rotated through three different lessons.

During the Honeybee lesson led by the 4-H Agent, Beekeeper Association President Mike Hackworth and member Chris West, youth learned the importance of honeybees and why they are important to our food system and how to become a beekeeper. They were able to try four types of honey. During their second session they visited the KY Dept. of Ag Mobile Science Activity Center: Each class had the opportunity to do one of the following Biodegradable Corn Plastic, Ice Cream in a Bag, Gluep, and Soybean Lip Balm. During these activities youth learned to

make the connection between the agricultural source to commonly used products. Our third session was Farm to Table led by our FCS Agent, 4-H Teens and SNAP Assistant. Students participated in hands-on culinary lessons. They learned about hand washing, youth knife skills, and food safety. They also prepared their own recipe and learned about my plate and the vegetables we grow. After lunch students then had the opportunity to rotate through three short sessions. The Great Pumpkin led by Extension Volunteer and State Fair Giant Pumpkin Winner Dwight Slone talked to the students about growing giant pumpkins. He also gave each student two pumpkin seeds from one of his pumpkins. Students also were able to learn about chickens from our staff assistant Megan Goble and raising alpaca and using their wool to make clothing from Ashlee Osoway. The last short session was on Dairy Cows led by our 4-H Agent Assistant, 4-H Teen Members and Ag Agent... Students had the opportunity to learn about Dairy Cows and got the opportunity to learn how to milk a cow Cloverbelle. Third grade teacher Hannah Newsome from BLES had this to say about Youth Ag Days. "The third-grade students at BLES loved getting the hands on experience provided by Ag Days. The teachers felt it was a great way to provide experiences outside of the classroom, that many students may not otherwise be able to receive. Overall, Ag Days provides the students with the ability to connect to the agriculture provided right here, in our area. We hope to attend again next year."



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## First Time Camper

The camp experience helps our youth to work toward the 4-H Youth Development mission of becoming self-directed, productive, and contributing members of our society. The Floyd County 4-H Council believes in supporting the 4-H Summer Camp program. One of the reasons the council supports the program is what results from the experience of camping. One parent of a new camper had this to say about her son's camping experience. "I want to express my thanks and my gratitude for giving my son a life changing experience. My son is very socially awkward and has trouble making friends. Let's just say I was incredibly surprised when he brought home the camper registration form and said he was interested in going to 4-H camp. I grew up going to 4-H camp and I always hoped my kids would want to go. When I saw him for the first time on Friday when he got back from camp, he seemed to be standing taller, and he even spoke differently. He showed more confidence, and his self-esteem was out of this world. Thank you so much helping to give my son a great learning experience and for helping him break out of his shell." Proud 4-H Camper Mom

## STEM Camp

Recent research suggests that learning science requires fluency in multiple aspects of conceptual understanding, practices of science, and identification with the scientific community. With this in mind, Floyd County 4-H hosted our first ever two-day STEM Camp with 17 youth ages 9-12 attending. Floyd County youth were able to learn how to program Pro Bots for coding, create and shoot their own straw rockets, build Snap Circuits, bristle bots, and more. As a result of STEM camp 86% of the youth increased their knowledge of SET concepts. Some of those concepts were life skill decision making through critical thinking, problem solving and scientific processing skills. These skills will not only help them in relation to STEM fields, but also allow them to make better, more analytical decisions in all aspects of their lives. Plans are ready in the works for this coming summer.





## 4-H Cam p 2025





# Kentucky State Fair 2025

Floyd County 4-H youth had the opportunity to showcase their hard work and talents at the 2025 Kentucky State Fair, held August 14–24 at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville. This annual event marks the culmination of months of dedication through 4-H project work in counties across the Commonwealth. A 4-H project is more than just a hobby—it’s a hands-on learning experience that empowers youth to explore their interests while developing essential life skills. Floyd County 4-H offers a wide variety of project opportunities for young people to pursue in seven core areas: natural resources; agriculture; communication and expressive arts; family and consumer sciences; health and wellness; leadership; and science, engineering, and technology.

Throughout the year, 4-H members spend six or more hours working individually or in clubs to master specific skills within their chosen project area. Along the way, they gain valuable competencies, such as public speaking, record-keeping, and decision-making, that lead to 4-H members who thrive and are beyond ready for what the future may hold. The Kentucky State Fair serves as the pinnacle event for 4-H project work every year. Youth who earn champion status at the county level are invited to compete at the state level, where their projects are displayed for thousands of fairgoers to admire—displays in Cloverville, located in the South Wing. Below are our Floyd County 4-H State Fair Winners.



## Floyd County 4-H Kentucky State Fair Winners 2025

### Adams Middle School

Kori Uribe, Art, Red Ribbon

### Allen Elementary

Phebe Collins, Art, Blue Ribbon

Karson Holbrook, Home Environment, Blue Ribbon

Chloe Kilgore, Art, Blue Ribbon

Lunetta Marsillett, Photography, Red Ribbon

Carleigh Randolph, Photography, White Ribbon

Lucas Ross, Photography, Blue Ribbon-Class Champion

Lucas Ross, Photography, White Ribbon

### Betsy Layne Elementary

Riley Boyd, Art, Blue Ribbon

Callie Hall, Photography, Blue Ribbon

Callie Hall, Photography, Blue Ribbon

Clifford Hall, Foods, White Ribbon

Kinzley Howell, Foods, Red Ribbon

Brandon Jay Watkins, Woodworking Red Ribbon

Adyson Williams, Art, Red Ribbon

Nicholas Williams, Woodworking, Red Ribbon

### Betsy Layne High School

Gabriel Newsome, Art, Blue Ribbon

### Duff Allen Central Elementary

Jaycee Hagans, Photography, Blue Ribbon

### Floyd Central High School

Sarah Boyd, Home Environment, Blue Ribbon

Cheyenne Flannery, Art, Blue Ribbon-Class Champion

Samuel Mckinney, Art, Blue Ribbon

Gauge Samons, Woodworking, Blue Ribbon

### John M. Stumbo Elementary

Marissa Blankenship, Art, Green Ribbon

Bryson Coleman, Foods, White Ribbon

Kadence Jones, Art, Red Ribbon

Kaylee Walker, Art, Green Ribbon

### May Valley Elementary

Aralynn Allen, Art, Blue Ribbon

Jayden Isaac, Horticulture, Red Ribbon

Ayden Slone, Photography, Red Ribbon

Ayden Slone, Photography, Red Ribbon

Ayden Slone, Photography, Red Ribbon

Ayden Slone, Photography, Red Ribbon

Ayden Slone, Photography, Red Ribbon

### Prestonsburg Elementary

Persephone Caudill, Art, Blue Ribbon

KP Flannery, Photography, Red Ribbon

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KP Flannery, Photography, Blue Ribbon

Maddox Holbrook, Home Environment, Blue Ribbon

Kyndell Miller, Foods, Blue Ribbon-Class Champion

Dylan Ratliff, Needlework, Red Ribbon

Christian Vanhooose, Art, Red Ribbon

### Prestonsburg High School

Amelia Gilbert, Needlework, Blue Ribbon

Amelia Gilbert, Needlework, Blue Ribbon

Amelia Gilbert, Needlework, Blue Ribbon

### South Floyd Elementary

Aaliyah Lane, Foods, Blue Ribbon



Congrats



## Youth Cooking Camp

According to the American Heart Association teaching youth how to prepare their own food will give them a skill they can use for a lifetime and will help to build confidence. Youth who can prepare foods are also more likely to eat a healthier diet as adults. To address the growing concern about children not knowing how to prepare food safely led to the development of this program. The Floyd County Extension Staff worked together as a team to plan and implement a three-day youth cooking camp for ages 9-14. We had 17 participants with 10 girls and 7 boys. No previous cooking experience was required for the free program and participants learned to master a variety of cooking techniques. The 3-day program consisted of knife skills, food safety, measuring skills, nutrition education, grilling, growing your own herbs, honey tasting, and crafts and games hosted at the Floyd County Extension Office. Participants even got to try out our new smoothie bike. Surveys from the program indicated that 100 percent of the participants learned food safety and practices, how to follow instructions, how to cook various recipes and worked in a team/group to accomplish a task or goal. After the program, a parent stated that their child was more involved with cooking at home and gained more independence. One of our male youth participants stated 5 months later he still enjoys helping his parents cook and learning new recipes. He even said he picked Cooking for his 4-H project this year.



## Pollinator Pots Program: By Brycen Shepherd

The decline of pollinator populations over the past three decades has created a major threat to our local communities' ecosystems, as well as the local gardening community. To help combat this and spread awareness a pollinator focused program was planned by the Extension Intern in cooperation with the Extension Agents that included a short presentation on pollinators and how to better care for them, but also how to attract them to local gardens. Then the participants were able to fill a pot and plant a diverse set of flowers to help show the importance of flower diversity to pollinators. The program focused on reaching local gardeners as well as youth with 30 individual participants over two programs, 8 of which were youth.

At the conclusion of the program participants were asked about how they felt the program went. Many participants expressed they had learned at least one new thing from the presentation. Some participants also make changes to their gardening strategies such as one participant who planned on putting their pot of flowers in their small garden to help attract bees. Another participant had never learned how to plant a pot of flowers until then.

Some participants made suggestions should the program continue for an expansion on coverage of butterflies as well as a deeper expansion on lesser known bee species. Others asked for a deeper list of plant species that pollinators visit more often.



# Agriculture and Natural Resources

The Floyd County Cooperative Extension Agriculture and Natural Resource program provides education, training and technical assistance to individuals and businesses concerned with profitable agriculture. Our educational programs include information on food and fiber production, farm business management, marketing and processing agricultural products, natural resource management and home lawn and garden information. Extension is the major provider of research-based information and education for agricultural producers, agri-business, retailers, consumers, and homeowners. Special programs include beekeeping, master gardener program, pruning demonstrations, pesticide applicator trainings, and soil sampling. For more information contact Chad Allen , Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources [hcal226@email.uky.edu](mailto:hcal226@email.uky.edu).

## Family and Consumer Science

Strengthening the family through research-based education has long been a goal of the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service Family and Consumer Sciences program. We have helped families invest in their future by helping them develop the competency to choose nutritious foods, manage resources, provide quality care for children and dependent elderly and become community leaders. Some of the activities offered by the Floyd County Family and Consumer Science Program are: Basic Life Skills, Financial Management, Health and Wellness Programs, Nutrition & Food preparation, and Parenting Classes. Looking for creative ideas and leadership opportunities? Join the Floyd County Extension Homemakers. For information contact Andrea Slone Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Science [andrea.johnson2@uky.edu](mailto:andrea.johnson2@uky.edu)

## Floyd Co. 4-H Wants You



**The Floyd County 4-H program is looking for new volunteers. Maybe you enjoy Committee and Council work. The 4-H programs need our interests represented on county, district, and state councils. Also needed are people who communicate with local, state, and national legislators. Examples: Participating on the County 4-H Council; Mentioning concerns to our state representatives; Writing letters to legislators or you may like Volunteering directly with young people. We will fit you with what your interest lies in. The amount of time depends on your availability. Examples include: Leading 4-H Clubs; Teaching class at 4-H Camp or sponsoring a Community Club. If you would like more information on being a Council Member or Volunteer please contact: Heather J. Coleman, Floyd County 4-H Youth Development Agent. [hncoleman@uky.edu](mailto:hncoleman@uky.edu)**

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