

# Report to the People Webster County • 2023

## COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



**Natalie Green** – Family and Consumer Sciences. Natalie is a native of Webster County and is a Western Kentucky University graduate. She began her extension career in Webster County as our program assistant in 2016. In the fall of 2021, Natalie transitioned to the FCS agent position.

**Wade Raymer** – 4-H Youth Development. Wade is a native of Ohio County and is a Western Kentucky University graduate. He began his extension career in Webster County in 2003.

**Vicki Shadrick** – Agriculture and Natural Resources. Vicki is a native of Webster County and is a Murray State University graduate. She began her extension career in Webster County in 2001.

**Stacy Hornback** – Staff Assistant. Stacy is a native of Hopkins County. She began her extension career in Webster County in 1999.

**Chaunda McCully** - Staff Assistant. Chaunda is a native of Webster County. She began her extension career in Webster County in 2016.

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### **For More Information, Please Contact us at:**

**Webster County Extension Office • (270) 639-9011 • <https://webster.ca.uky.edu>  
1118 US Hwy 41-A South., Dixon, KY 42409-9492**

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## Agriculture and Natural Resources

Over the past 3 years, we have all learned new ways to connect with people. Even during a global pandemic, businesses found ways to continue to meet the needs of their clientele and families found ways to stay connected without gathering in person.

The pandemic is over, but learning and adapting to new ways to connect to our clientele is still a priority. After attending a podcasting session at the University of Kentucky, Cooperative Extension Service, 2021 ANR update, Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agents in Webster, Hopkins and Mclean counties explored the idea of podcasting as part of their already existing Tri-County Ag Extension Group programs. After researching different podcasts, equipment needs, editing software and podcast platforms, exploring podcasting quickly turned to starting a podcast.

KY Ag Matters is a podcast to educate and inform our listeners about all things related to agriculture. We recorded our first podcast on November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021.



As of February 20, 2023, we have published 47 episodes with a variety of topics ranging from bale grazing to disease management in corn and soybeans; and carbon credits to pond management and many more. Our guests range from UK Extension Specialists to commodity group leaders, as well as, extension agents and law enforcement officers. Our goal is to offer timely, research-based information to the agriculture community in a consistent and reliable way. We now have approximately 50 weekly listeners across the United States. Being in the infancy stage of this type of program, reporting impact is challenging. Raising awareness and building credibility with our listeners is the starting point for long-term impact. KY Ag Matters podcast is a priority program for the Tri-County Ag Extension Group and plans are being made to extend our reach and be able to measure how the podcast truly impacts our listeners. Stay tuned...and remember, KY Ag Matters.



## 4-H Youth Development

4-H utilizes high school students in a variety of settings to help them develop their leadership skills as well as life skills. For this reason, UK Cooperative Extension 4-H programs from Webster County, along with other counties, partnered to offer a 4-H Teen Leadership Academy (TLA) for 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade members.

The Academy met monthly throughout the school year in various locations and counties and focused on developing leadership, social, communication, and life skills.

The youth built relationships and worked in teams to accomplish tasks at each session. Some of the activities ranged from physical challenges to applying food safety and preparation skills in competing in a contest that included oral and visual presentations. After spending the day with a KET instructor, they worked together and created a marketing/promotional 4-H Camp video that can be used for Summer Camp promotion.

In order to graduate from the Teen Leadership Academy, the teens had to work together and coordinate the multi county Team Challenge Camp for middle school youth at West KY 4-H Camp.



## Family and Consumer Science

Prenatal and newborn health is an important topic for Webster County residents. There are many soon to be parents and new parents who seek out resources on topics such as feeding, changing, car seat safety, and overall health of their children.

In response to the above issues, Webster County Cooperative Extension, alongside FRYSC and Early Childhood Council, held the World's Greatest Baby shower. The baby shower was a free educational, informative and interactive program for expectant mothers and guests. The program covered such topics as feeding, what to expect physically after bringing baby home from the hospital with mom and baby, benefits information, resources to contact for help, and much more.

The Baby Shower was open to all of Webster County's expectant parents and parents with children up to one year old. The Q&A session allowed participants to ask questions to a local IBCLC (International Board Certified Lactation Consultant), Nurse Practitioner, and benefits representative from Kynector. In addition to expert advice there were opportunities to win valuable and useful door prizes such as diapers, newborn care kits, car seats, strollers, and more.

The post program evaluations showed that 100% of the participants learned something new and indicated useful information was given.

## Family and Consumer Science

The Webster County Cooperative Extension Service implemented Truth & Consequences: The Choice is Yours, a scenario based role-play activity designed to help students learn more about the physical, legal, financial, and emotional consequences of substance abuse and cyber-crimes.

This program is provided to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at the Webster County Middle School. Community partners, Family, District, and Circuit Court Judges and court officials participated in the event as volunteers.

Student evaluation pre-test results revealed the following: 27% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders at the Webster County Middle School indicated that it was slightly or not wrong at all for a parent to provide their children under the age of 21 alcohol; The post test revealed that percentage had gone down to 4%. The pre-test also showed that 37% of students did not believe a person could be held legally reliable for a cyber-crime. The post test revealed that percentage had gone down to 6%.

The event continues to make an impact on students each year by providing them with a first-hand look at the realities and consequences of getting involved with substance abuse and cyber-crimes.



*"Going to the courthouse made it feel real. I didn't think about how scary it would be to be in front of a Judge."*

*~Webster County 8<sup>th</sup> grade student*

*"I didn't know how serious cyber-crimes were."*

*~Webster County 8<sup>th</sup> grade student*

***It Starts With Us.***

***Healthy Families. Healthy Homes.  
Healthy Communities.***