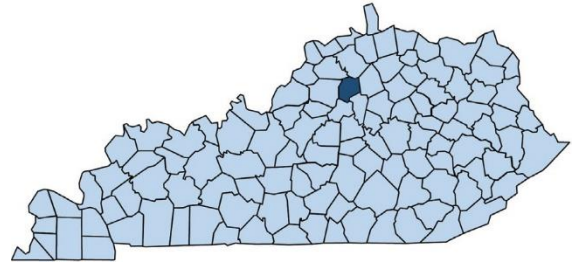


# REPORT TO THE PEOPLE



## Franklin County 2024



**DID YOU KNOW...** The Franklin County Extension Office now has 164 solar panels. The energy production from these solar panels will contribute 98 percent of the building's net electricity use and will cumulatively save taxpayers \$245,000 after 25 years.

Website: <http://franklin.ca.uky.edu/>

Facebook: @FranklinCountyKyCooperativeExtension

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@franklincountycooperativee9516>

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

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## Agriculture and Natural Resources



David Gomez discussing the new Tesla Powerwall Batteries installed.

**175** The number of people who gained information on beef nutrition, animal health, genetics, reproduction, and/or facilities and equipment.

**24** The number of individuals who gained increased knowledge of how to respond to mental health concerns.

The Franklin County Extension District Board voted to take advantage of the Solarize Frankfort process and federal government rebates to install a solar photovoltaic (PV) and battery back-up system to supply nearly 100% of the office's net annual electricity needs. The 45 kilowatt (AC) project will use 164 solar PV panels and four Tesla Powerwall batteries. The 164-panel solar array is expected to supply 98% of the Extension office's net annual electricity needs, using a net metering agreement with Kentucky Utilities.

The office received guidance from Apogee and the Kentucky Solar Energy Society for the project. The monitoring app will be posted on our website as well as on-site and provide real time information on solar energy produced, the building's current usage as well as back up battery status.

This project not only impacts all extension clientele who visit the office but county tax payers as well. The system can not only be monitored but toured and demonstrate to anyone interested in installing solar for their home or farm buildings as well as businesses.

The battery back-up system will supply critical loads during grid outages, enabling the Extension office to continue operations and offer community services during potential community emergencies. The project is expected to save the Extension office over \$10,000 annually in electricity costs. Our office expects to receive a \$66,000 "Direct Pay" rebate from the Federal government for the \$165,000 project, enabling the project to break even in less than 10 years.

## Family and Consumer Sciences

**2435** The number of hours KEHA members volunteered in community activities and events.

**40** The number of individuals who attended a fall prevention program.



FCS Agent, Carla A. Carter invites preschoolers to join Team Mango.

Childhood obesity is a growing epidemic in the United States, affecting 1 in 5 children. Recent studies estimate that 57% of today's children will be obese by age 35.

Dr. Yum's Adventure curriculum, designed for preschoolers aged 3-6 years, aims to combat this issue by introducing children to seasonal fruits and vegetables. The curriculum explains the nutritional benefits of these foods and encourages preschoolers to explore them using all their senses. This program is a collaboration between Franklin County Cooperative Extension Services Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Agent and two preschool classes at Second Street School, involving 52 students. Preschoolers engage with new foods through various activities, including art, literacy, movement, music, science, and community connections. The goal is for all preschoolers to join a collaborative team

by making friends with the new food.

The program's success is evident from feedback provided students:

- 92% of preschoolers love food.
- 95% of preschoolers are interested in food.
- 99% of preschoolers enjoyed tasting new foods.
- 80% of preschoolers enjoyed tasting new foods they hadn't eaten before.

Dr. Yum's Preschool Adventure curriculum is making a significant impact in encouraging healthy eating habits among preschoolers, setting the foundation for a healthier future.

## Horticulture



*The 2024 Master Gardener Graduates.*

**2893** Number of people who gained knowledge in consumer and home horticulture including: native plants, disease and pests, composting, site analysis, and proper maintenance.

**485** The number of Master Gardener hours completed in county.

The Kentucky Master Gardener Program is a fourteen-week course on horticulture, aimed at training volunteers to be better gardeners and community leaders. Graduates must complete 40 hours of community service in the first year and 20 hours annually thereafter.

Franklin and Woodford County CES held a class of nineteen students, all passionate about gardening. Many have started or plan to assist with community gardens, using sustainable methods. This year, fourteen students became certified Extension Master Gardener volunteers, contributing a total of 703 volunteer hours. These hours combined with our existing volunteers' efforts totaled 2,227 volunteer hours. With the value of volunteer time estimated at \$28.53 per hour, this equates to \$63,536 in value for Franklin, Anderson, and Woodford County residents.

## 4-H Youth Development



*A sixth grade class attending Find Your Yes Day at the KSU Research Farm.*

**153** The number of youth who gained/ strengthened the ability to express their thoughts and opinions.

**955** The number of youth who participated in a service activity.

Franklin County youth face a growing need for healthy, positive engagement during out-of-school hours. Many students are unaware of the wide variety of extracurricular activities available to them locally, which could help them build skills, connect with peers, and stay out of trouble. In response to this need, Just Say Yes, in partnership with local organizations and volunteers, hosted Find Your Yes Day – a two-day field trip held on September 16 & 17, 2024, at the Kentucky State University (KSU) Research Farm. The event aimed to introduce Franklin County 6th graders to a wide array of youth activities offered throughout the county.

Find Your Yes Day successfully engaged 1,158 students, introducing them to a variety of extracurricular activities available in Franklin County. Franklin County 4-H, has been a proud Yes Card provider since the program's inception. Since 2020, \$7,881 has been spent with Franklin County 4-H. Our continued partnership with Just Say Yes, includes our participation in Find Your Yes Day, helped students explore hands-on activities like navigating a robot maze using iPads.

Furthermore, program providers and partners, including Franklin County 4-H, reported a notable rise in inquiries about their offerings following Find Your Yes Day, indicating that students were eager to pursue their newfound interests. In 2024 Franklin County Youth Spent \$5,201 of their Yes Card Dollars at Franklin County 4-H. These funds were spent sending youth to 4-H summer camp, Teen Summit and Teen Conference. This event not only helped students discover activities they enjoy but also strengthened connections between youth, their peers, and community organizations. These bonds are critical for long-term personal growth, positive development, and community engagement.

The Franklin County Nutrition Education Program (NEP) Assistant, Pamela Holbrook, taught classes to multiple age groups and populations in the community, a few examples being pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes at the Early Learning Village to senior citizens at the Capital City Activity Center and King's Daughters Apartments.

She also reached out to the local homeschool population, teaching Teen Cuisine, Serving MyPlate and reading books on gardening, nutrition and physical activity. Overall, 83% of the youth participants noted an increase in diet quality related to eating more nutritional choices.

Two monthly clubs started under NEP in 2024 as well, one for families with young children and another specifically catered to adults. Both teach healthier dietary choices, while trying fun and interesting recipes.



## ... just a few ways Extension supports Kentucky

- **98,050** Number of people who increased knowledge of farm health and safety practices (i.e. farm safety days, disaster preparedness, equipment demonstrations, farmers dinner theater)
- **9,513** Number of individuals who reported improved knowledge, opinions, skills, or aspirations regarding the safe storage, handling, preparation and/or preservation of food choices.
- **8,753** Number of individuals who reported an increased knowledge of substance use prevention, addiction, and/or recovery (or related subject matter).
- **2,600** The number of people who used Extension diagnostics services to identify plants/weeds.

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### Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Family and Consumer Sciences  
4-H Youth Development  
Community and Economic Development

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