



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAM

SPRING 2017

AgKnowledge

College of Agriculture, Food Science, and Sustainable Systems and Land Grant Program

EXTENDING OUR REACH

Expanding our commitment to rural and urban communities in 4-H, community development, family and consumer sciences, and agriculture



FCS | Small Farms | Aquaculture | Environmental Education | Nutrition | Horticulture



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An 1890 Land Grant University offering advanced opportunities in teaching, research, and Cooperative Extension.



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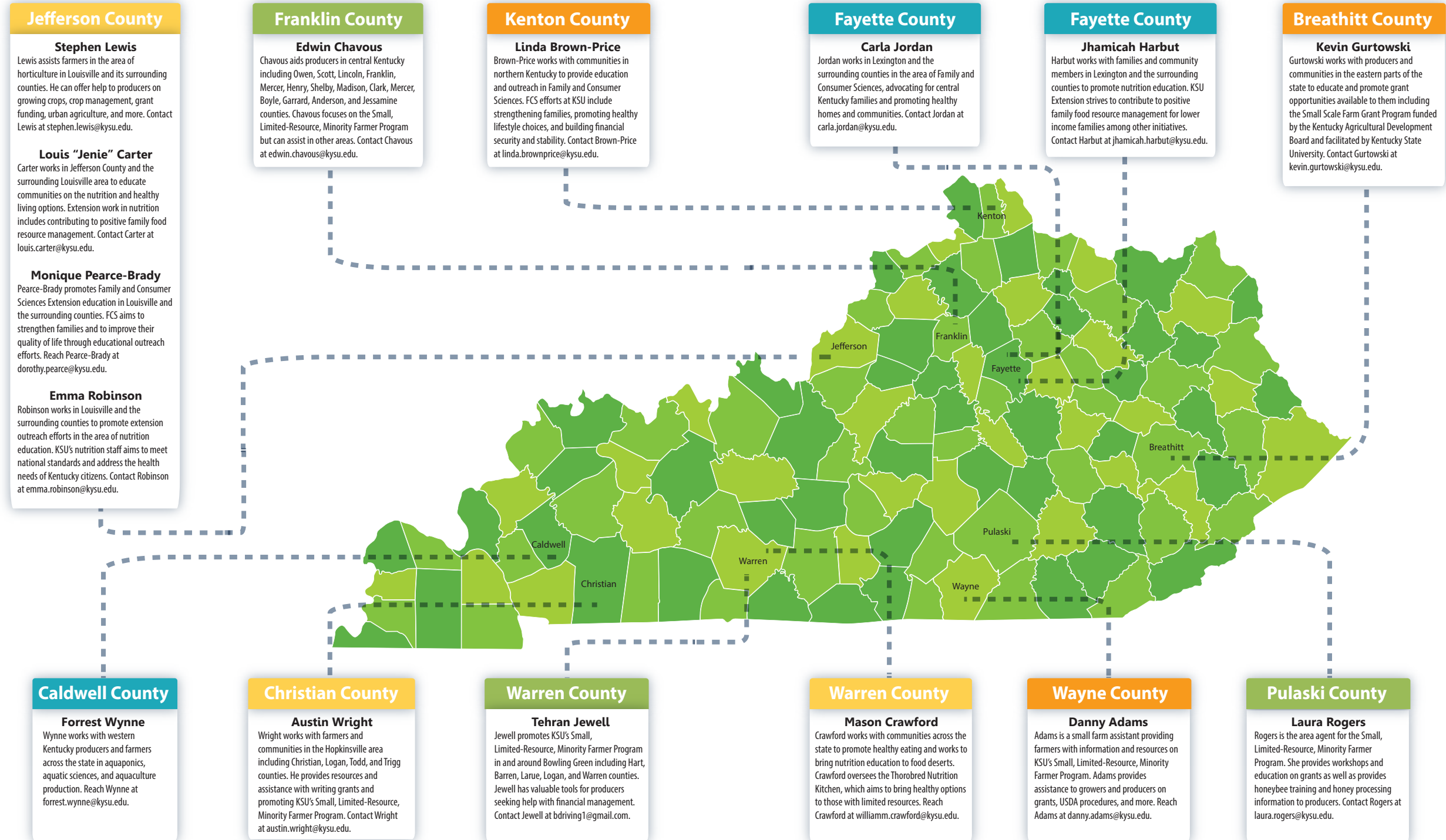


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KSU Field Operations in Kentucky Counties





Kentucky's New Extension Program

Dr. Johnnie Westbrook, associate extension administrator, and Dr. Courtney Owens, interim assistant extension administrator and state specialist in program and staff development have joined Kentucky State University.

Dr. Westbrook will direct KSU's Cooperative Extension Program, which focuses on solving problems faced by those who have limited social and economic resources and improving the quality of life and vitality of communities and individuals throughout Kentucky. This is accomplished through outreach and informal education to our communities and underserved audiences, and through promoting sustainable economies, environments, communities, and families.

KSU's Cooperative Extension Program is part of a nationwide network of local and regional offices staffed by experts who provide useful, practical, and research-based information to agriculture producers, small business owners, youth, and consumers in the community. Dr. Westbrook will lead KSU's team of state specialists and county extension agents in partnership with the University of Kentucky's Cooperative Extension System to reach farmers and producers across the state. Dr. Owens will assist in assessing how KSU is reaching the community and the impacts it has across the Commonwealth.

"George Washington Carver once said, 'Where there is no vision, there is no hope.' My vision for KSU is to see it become the premier provider of educational programs," Dr. Westbrook says. "My goal is to further Kentucky State's strong relationship with limited-resource farmers, communities, families and with the youth. My first goal is to conduct an internal review of our state and county programs to develop a strategic plan based on our strengths."

Dr. Westbrook has over 20 years of experience in secondary agricultural education and Cooperative Extension. He received his Bachelor of Science in agricultural education from North Carolina State University; Master of Science in agricultural education from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University; and a Doctor of Philosophy in career and technical

education (emphasis in Extension education) from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

"I believe in setting a standard of principles; these are principles that will help move Kentucky State forward. I call them my six guiding principles: people, priorities, programs, professional development, performance, and pride. These are necessary to take Kentucky State to the top, and they will be essential in the development of my strategic plan to help the university meet its goals and vision," Dr. Westbrook says.

Dr. Owens, who has an exceptional amount of experience in working with extension programs, will assist Westbrook in furthering Kentucky State's goal.

"I was drawn to Kentucky State University because I truly believe in the mission and the vision of the university. I'm honored to be a part of the Kentucky State family and for the opportunity to help the university meet the institution's goals. It's my mission to share my knowledge of education and my experience in extension to help accelerate Kentucky State University into being the premier land-grant institution," Dr. Owens says.

Dr. Owens received his Bachelor of Arts in political science and a Master of Science in agricultural education from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University. He later received his Ph.D. in agricultural education and communication at the University of Florida in December 2016. Dr. Owens is a Returned United States Peace Corps Volunteer where he served in the Small Enterprise development sector as an agribusiness advisor in Burkina Faso, West Africa. During this two-year period, his primary project was to work with local cotton farmers to improve sustainable agricultural practices and generate income through agribusiness ventures.

Dr. Johnnie Westbrook, right, Associate Extension Administrator, and Dr. Courtney Owens, left, Interim Assistant Extension Administrator and State Specialist in Program and Staff Development





Changing Lives Through Opportunity

KSU Small Farm Program provides educational and financial resources to small, limited-resource, minority producers

Kentucky State University's Cooperative Extension Program works with individuals, farm families, and communities with limited resources to help them use information, increase incomes, and aspire to a better future.

Dr. Marion Simon and Mr. Louie Rivers Jr. head up the Kentucky State University Small, Limited-Resource, Minority Farmer Program, which is committed to solving problems faced by those who have limited social and economic resources. The economic impact of the Small Farm outreach has averaged over \$3.75 million annually in increased producer incomes, \$1 million in annual producer savings, and local multiplier effects are projected to be \$9 million annually.

With the help of her team, Dr. Simon, who is the 2015 recipient of the Kentucky Association of State Extension Professionals' M.D. Whitaker Award of Excellence and the national Association of Public and Land Grant Universities Excellence in Extension 1890 Award, works to secure external funding to enhance program delivery, utilizes media and educational meetings to provide education and outreach to limited-resource farmers, professionals, and paraprofessionals, and develops and delivers programming in farm management, production, food safety, local foods, and marketing.

Mr. Louie Rivers, director of county operations and recipient of the 2015 University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment Thomas Poe Cooper Distinguished Farm Leadership Award, meets with Kentucky's county extension councils to broaden KSU's extension efforts into new areas of Kentucky. Some of these county initiatives include the Local Foods Initiative,

which utilizes the mobile poultry processing unit in Bath, Hart, Shelby, Kenton, Bourbon, Clark, Washington, Hardin, Scott, and Jackson counties. Additional local food initiatives include production use of black plastic, high tunnels, direct marketing of vegetables, and honeybee training and honey processing.

Additionally, KSU Extension's AgrAbility program utilizes assistive technologies to make farming operations feasible for farmers with disabilities and to improve their qualities of life. Farmers in Meade, Franklin, and Scott counties have participated in this program. More than 200 farmers across Kentucky have participated in health fairs and have learned technologies to assist them with arthritis and their mobility.

The Small Farm Program team includes:

- Edwin Chavous, area agent for small farms in central Kentucky (Owen, Scott, Lincoln, Franklin, Mercer, Henry, Shelby, Madison, Clark, Mercer, Boyle, Garrard, Anderson, and Jessamine counties)
- Tehran Jewell, area agent in financial management/small farms in south central Kentucky (Hart, Barren, Larue, Logan, and Warren counties)
- Austin Wright, area agent for small farms (Christian, Logan, Todd, and Trigg counties)
- Laura Rogers, area agent for small farms in southern and eastern Kentucky (Wayne, Pulaski, Russell, Whitley, Clay, Perry, Jackson, Letcher, Russell, Pulaski, Perry, and Floyd counties)
- Shelley Spiggle, small farm assistant
- Danny Adams, small farm assistant, Wayne County
- Steve Skelton, Mobile Processing Unit manager
- Stephen Lewis, horticulture agent, Jefferson County



Dr. Marion Simon, State Specialist for Small Farms and Professor, and Louie Rivers, Jr., Director of County Operations



Celebrating 20 Years of Third Thursdays

Sustainable workshop series brings together farmers, researchers, agencies to learn and share ideas equally

The Third Thursday Thing Sustainable Agriculture Workshop series is a monthly event that aims to educate Kentucky's farming community on best practices, grant opportunities, new technologies, and more. The program celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2017 and has become a statewide community of small farmers, researchers, Cooperative Extension staff, and U.S. Department of Agriculture and state agencies who speak and share ideas freely and equally.

The goal of the Third Thursday Thing is to improve the sustainability of agriculture on Kentucky's small, limited-resource, female-operated, and minority farms.

"From the kitchen table to field meetings, everyone views the Third Thursday Thing as a relaxed, shared learning experience where all participants benefit from each other," says Dr. Marion Simon, state Extension

specialist. Dr. Simon founded the Third Thursday Thing in 1997.

The workshop aims to strengthen and build support groups for small and minority farmers as they work, learn, and share together. At the Third Thursday Thing, small farmers are introduced to a wide range of alternative farm enterprises and sustainable production and marketing systems so that they can make informed decisions and help mentor other farmers. Agricultural professionals, paraprofessionals, and non-profits gain a better understanding of sustainable agriculture production and marketing systems, including the special needs of small farms.

Over the past two to four years, 70-90% of Third Thursday Thing participants have adopted a practice or new enterprise they have learned at a workshop and use it on their operations or in their programming.

The Third Thursday Thing is held at 10 a.m. on the third Thursday of each month, except for December.

Program agendas are available at www.kysu.edu/thirdthursdaything

Topics include grapes and wine, bees, goats, organic agriculture, AgrAbility, aquaculture, value-added, and more.

Location: Kentucky State University, Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm, 1525 Mills Lane, Frankfort, KY

"I don't know of anyone who has done so much for so many small farmers as Kentucky State University has done with the Third Thursday Thing. Every farmer that I know has increased their income from coming."

—Dana Lear, Appalachian small farmer



The Innovative Small Scale Farm Grant

Providing assistance and development for Kentucky small-scale farmers

Kentucky State University's College of Agriculture, Food Science, and Sustainable Systems and Land Grant Program has been working to develop resources to provide educational assistance to small scale farms for many years. Partnering with the Kentucky Agriculture Development Board, KSU has grants available to farmers across Kentucky who are motivated to improve their farming operations, to improve the marketability of their products with value-added enterprise, or who need assistance with specific educational trainings.

Joni Nelson, extension associate and director of the Center for the Sustainability of Farms and Families, works to promote this grant program across Kentucky to reach farmers who have limited resources, small acreage, or are minorities. Nelson works with farmers as they apply for the grant, helps them through the application process, and works to present the best case for the farmer when the grant goes to the review committee. The small scale farm grant program has reached more than 600 producers across Kentucky.

To qualify, producers must fall under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's definition of a small scale farm, which is one that sells less than \$250,000 of agricultural products each year. Farmers who are motivated to improve their business and who can demonstrate the ability to document their success will

be considered. The maximum each farm can receive is \$5,000; non-profit groups and organized businesses that support groups of farmers may qualify for up to \$15,000. Additionally, farmers and producers can receive up to \$500 for educational trainings.

How the money is used is based on the demonstration of need. Most production and marketing expenses can be covered by grant funds. Specific guidelines will be attached to the application. No motorized equipment, vehicles, or consumable products can be purchased, and farmers cannot be paid for their work. Priority areas for the grant include aquaculture farming, certified organic farming and marketing, value-added enterprise development, and farmer educational trainings.

Nelson works with Extension Associate Kevin Gurtowski in eastern Kentucky, Dakarai Carrington who manages KSU's Fruit and Vegetable Mobile Processing Unit, and Jacob Vincent, a research assistant and graduate student. Together, this team works to educate farmers across Kentucky about grant opportunities and to provide assistance with their operations through farm visits and organized workshops.

To apply for the small scale farm grant, contact Joni Nelson at joni.nelson@kysu.edu, or visit www.kysu.edu/CAFSSS to learn more.



Joni Nelson, Extension Associate and Manager of the Center for the Sustainability of Farms and Families



Small Farm Successes

KSU Small Farm Grant Program opens doors for Kentucky farmers

“This grant has improved our capacity to store, transport, and market meat and produce.”
– Tim Sanders, Indian Creek Settlement Farm, Letcher County, Ky.



“I have already seen the benefits by increased sales due to larger inventory in stock for customers to purchase.”
– Jennifer Hall, Rustic Charm Farm, Breathitt County, Ky.



“We are now outfitted to manage cultivation needs to put more acreage into organic grain production. Our organic corn for 2014 paid \$11/bushel instead of \$4 for conventional. Our land and our bottom line will benefit.”
– Alice Melendez, Mt. Folly Farm, Clark County, Ky.

“The addition of pumpkin-based baked goods has allowed us to reach a new customer base that visits our farm for a new reason and has given existing customers a reason to visit for a second time during the season.”
– Jill Willingham, Simpson County, Ky.





Dakarai Carrington, Extension Assistant

Processing Made Easy

Mobile processing unit takes value-added services to farmers

Kentucky State University's Fruit and Vegetable Mobile Processing Unit (FVMPU) is a fully permitted and certified mobile commercial kitchen that enables farmers to process their fresh fruits and vegetables into value-added products such as jams, jellies, pickles, salsa, and frozen bagged fruits and vegetables to be sold in local grocery stores, gift shops, and farmers markets.

This unit offers processing levels that are higher than that of a home-based processor, including a sorghum evaporator, which provides farmers with a way to process and sell goods at venues larger than the local farmers market.

The FVMPU aims to enhance services to underserved, limited-resource farmers who are often not reached by traditional Cooperative Extension programs,

in safe commercial processing of fruits and vegetables in order to significantly increase economic opportunities for these individuals. KSU Extension staff also educate and assist farmers in the value-added process and marketing strategies.

Because the FVMPU contains equipment for the production of FDA-regulated products, all recipes submitted for production must be approved by the Food Systems Innovation Center.

To use the unit, contact its manager, Dakarai Carrington, at (502) 597-6425 or dakarai.carrington@kysu.edu. The FVMPU is available to be leased for up to 48 hours. The Fruit and Vegetable Mobile Processing Unit is funded in part by a grant obtained from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund.



Ken Bates, Geographic Information Systems Extension Specialist

Understanding the World Around You

GIS technology helps farmers and communities evaluate patterns and trends

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is a way of understanding the world around us. GIS is designed to capture, manage, analyze, and display all forms of geographically referenced information. It allows us to view, understand, question, interpret, and visualize our world in ways that reveal relationships, patterns, and trends in the form of maps, globes, reports, and charts.

Ken Bates, state extension specialist in Geographic Information Systems, works with students and communities to help gather, analyze, and report this data to help answer questions and solve problems by creating maps, which are quickly understood and easily shared.

"As with any technology, GIS was formed in the

confines of a remote computer room, but has now moved onto our desktops and onto our mobile devices," Bates says.

At Kentucky State University, students use GIS technology to address the needs of farmers including land use and livestock practices.

Did you know that of all features on a cell phone, travel directions and maps are always rated as the most used applications?



Impacting our Environment

KSU's Environmental Education Program reaches Kentucky's students, teachers, community



Ed Wilcox, left, Watershed Research and Extension Associate, and Jennifer Hubbard-Sánchez, State Extension Specialist for Sustainable Systems and Director of the KSU Center for Environmental Education

Kentucky State University's Land Grant Program is committed to providing quality environmental education to our students, campus and local communities, residents of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and beyond. The main focus of our programs is the importance of preserving the quality of the environment and creating meaningful links between human impacts and environmental systems. From the natural resources we consume daily, the energy we use, the air we breathe, the food we eat, and the water we drink, understanding our dependence and impacts on the natural world is imperative to ensuring a sustainable future for us all. Through quality environmental education opportunities provided by KSU staff, participants develop a greater understanding and awareness of environmental issues and a stronger sense of place, leading to increased positive attitudes about the environment and resulting in enhanced stewardship of Earth's resources.

Environmental Education and Research Center (EERC)

Located in Henry County, Kentucky, this 307-acre collaborative learning facility connects teachers, students, and community groups to the environment through meaningful learning activities. Jennifer Hubbard-Sánchez, state specialist for sustainable systems, manages the EERC, which is actively managed with environmentally sound management practices and aims to protect, enhance, and educate about Kentucky's wilderness.

In addition to her work at the EERC, Hubbard-Sánchez assists with managing the Agriculture, Food, and Environment (AFE) Academy—an initiative that aims to educate teachers on today's environmental education practices aligning with Common Core Standards—and has authored a Kentucky Water Guide for the National Environmental Issues Forum through the Kettering Institute. She also runs an EPA Climate Educate grant that, during 2017, will reach and train Kentucky students, teachers, and community members on basic climate literacy and efforts to mitigate our impacts.

As a state specialist, Hubbard-Sánchez works with leaders in the field of environmental education across Kentucky through her work with the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education and the Kentucky University Partnership for Environmental Education, of which she serves as vice chair and chair. With these groups, she works to guide and shape environmental education efforts in Kentucky that follow national trends. She also works with students at the EERC, on Kentucky State University's Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm, and in the classroom to help raise their awareness about human impact and dependence on the natural environment. Hubbard-Sánchez also enjoys working with educators.

"I am so lucky to get to work with, learn from, and train both formal classroom teachers and non-formal environmental educators in various environmental education curricula, best practices in the field, and in the successful integration of environmental education into the classroom."

Hubbard-Sánchez was named National Outstanding Project Learning Tree Educator in 2016.

Kentucky River Thorobred

Another environmental education resource at Kentucky State University is the 52-foot Kentucky River Thorobred. This Coast Guard certified floating classroom and laboratory is an educational vessel that is available to school and community groups. Ed Wilcox, watershed research and extension associate, manages the education on board the boat that ranges in topics from aquatic ecology to water quality to point source and non-point source pollution and more.

The boat, which is accessible for individuals requiring special accommodations, has a total capacity of 46 passengers and is staffed and operated by a Coast Guard certified captain, a first mate, and by Wilcox and other KSU staff who can tailor educational programs to a group's unique learning needs.

To schedule a visit to the EERC, contact Jennifer Hubbard-Sánchez at jennifer.sanchez@ksu.edu. To book a trip on the Kentucky River Thorobred, contact Ed Wilcox at ed.wilcox@ksu.edu.



Shaping the Future

KSU encourages Kentucky youth to take an interest in agriculture

Today's world needs professionals to be prepared to solve global challenges related to agribusiness, climate change, a safe and reliable food supply, protection of natural resources, improved nutrition, public health, and alternative energy sources.

Kentucky State University's College of Agriculture, Food Science, and Sustainable Systems strives to educate young people about the agriculture industry, the latest advancements in technology and research, and to get them interested in the wide variety of careers available in the agricultural and environmental sciences industries. The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture report the employment outlook is bright for college graduates with degrees in food, renewable energy, and the environment.

Ken Thompson, extension associate in Agriculture, Food, and Environment works with students across the state to spread agriculture education and the influence of the industry on everything that we do.

Beginning in 2017, Thompson will work with high schools across Kentucky to build aquaponics systems in the schools

in order to engage students in aquaculture education. Aquaculture is an industry leader and KSU is home to one of the top aquaculture programs in the U.S., known for its innovative research and opportunities in teaching, research, and extension. Building these continuing, longitudinal relationships with schools, Thompson hopes to create a pipeline from the university's service counties to KSU.

Thompson also helps oversee an internship program with Frankfort High School that encourages students to spend a semester designing and building their own aquaculture project. The first student in the program constructed a backyard aquaponics system that was then transported to the high school for more students to study and learn from.

Thompson, who is a KSU graduate and was the first student to receive a master's degree in Aquaculture/Aquatic Sciences in the College of Agriculture, Food Science, and Sustainable Systems, hosts more than 1,200 students at KSU's Aquaculture Research Center for tours each year. He is also the recipient of the Conservation Education Award from the Scott County Conservation District.

Ken Thompson, Extension Associate in Agriculture, Food, and Environment



Putting KSU First

Health and wellness initiative aims to tackle obesity starting with campus



Kentucky State University has a prominent nutrition education and research program that provides leadership throughout the nation. It is our goal to meet the priorities outlined by the United States Department of Agriculture National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) by providing programs that meet the health needs of Kentucky citizens. However, it is important that faculty, staff, and students lead by example.

Dr. Kristopher Grimes heads a nutrition team that tackles three major areas of research in nutrition education and wellness. First, the team is looking at local communities and the role of food pantries as a way of contributing to positive family food resource management for lower income families. Second, the team conducts research in the area of summer feeding programs and increasing both efficiency and effectiveness of mobile summer routes. The third area of research is a program created at Kentucky State University called *KSU FIRST*, which aims to design specific programs to increase healthy lifestyles for university faculty and staff.

One of the most crucial strategic goals and priority areas for NIFA is to improve the health and nutrition across the country. Over the past 20 years, obesity rates in both children and adults have steadily increased. Currently, nearly 33% of children in the United States are either overweight or obese. For adults, that percentage rises to nearly 70%.

While it is important for institutions of higher education, specifically Land Grant institutions, to develop and implement programming to meet these challenges for local communities, it is crucial that we start with ourselves. *KSU FIRST* is a Kentucky State University initiative that will serve to provide university faculty, staff, and students with tools and direction to improve their health.

This initiative, led by the College of Agriculture, Food Science, and Sustainable Systems and Land Grant Program, provides nutrition education and strategic personal training to any faculty, staff, and student who joins *KSU FIRST*. Basic nutrition, sports nutrition, cooking, and food budgeting courses will help participants improve their diets, health, and performance. Through the assistance of trained professionals, participants will be able to improve their health through functional training, general resistance training, and eventually fitness for specific sports.

The KSU Center for Family Nutrition and Wellness Education serves as the umbrella for all of the university's nutrition education programming. Grimes works with a team of eight research and extension staff including Turquoise Brown-Patterson, Gidgett Sweazy, Mason Crawford, Louis "Jenie" Carter, Emma Robinson, Jhamicah Harbut, Deborah Hoskins, and Monique Frisby Williams.

Dr. Kristopher Grimes, Assistant Professor, Extension Specialist for Nutrition and Nutrition Education

The Thorobred Nutrition Kitchen

is a 24-foot commercial kitchen that aims to provide education to communities and families concerning nutrition and healthy eating, and to improve food access with fresh produce and read-made, healthy meals.

CURRENTLY, NEARLY 33% OF CHILDREN IN THE U.S. ARE EITHER OVERWEIGHT OR OBESE. NEARLY 70% OF ADULTS ARE CONSIDERED TO BE OVERWEIGHT OR OBESE.

KSU supports the federal Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), which is a federally-funded program through the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture and offers nutrition education to limited-resource families and children in all 50 states and U.S. territories.

TIPS FOR HEALTHY EATING:



Vary your veggies! This increases the variety of vitamins and minerals in your diet and makes your meals more interesting.



Look for healthy snacks! Limit your calories from outside the five main food groups and choose celery sticks, apples, cheese cubes, whole grain crackers, and lean meat slices.



Choose 100% juice! Avoid juices with added sugar. Given a choice between fresh fruit or juice, always choose the fresh fruit.



Buy baked and roasted foods! Avoid fried and breaded meats.



Make room for water! Choose water over sugary beverages and regular or diet soft drinks. Drink 8-12 glasses of water each day.



Growing the Leaders of Tomorrow

4-H Youth Development at KSU engages young people in agriculture and related sciences

Kentucky State University's College of Agriculture, Food Science, and Sustainable Systems sponsors 4-H and Youth Development programs to students entering grades 6-12 with the aim of contributing to the production of the next generation of scientists, entrepreneurs, health professionals, and leaders who will work to solve worldwide problems and make the future brighter for all.

Youth development programs, lead by 4-H youth development project manager Shawn Moore, provide hands-on learning and engage professionals from a wide range of careers to work directly with students.

Kentucky State University's 4-H youth programming includes three residential, scholarship-based summer programs that introduce high school students to the agriculture, transportation, and environmental science industries.

Additionally, Moore takes 20 students with the Canaan Community Development Corporation Sons of Issachar after-school program to Washington, D.C., each year to learn about the history of our nation and how they can apply their leadership and citizenship skills when they return home.

Among several recruitment and promotional efforts, Moore also helps facilitate the National Youth Science Day each year, which involves elementary and middle school students in experiential learning based in science.

Shawn Moore, 4-H Youth Development Project Manager

WHAT IS 4-H?

4-H is a global network of youth organizations whose mission is engaging youth to reach their fullest potential while advancing in the field of youth development.

KENTUCKY 4-H INVOLVES

256,345

youth from around the state, or 32% of the K-12 grade population participate in 4-H in some way.

YOUNG PEOPLE INVOLVED IN 4-H ARE:

- 4X** more likely to contribute to their communities.
- 2X** more likely to be civically active.
- 2X** more likely to make healthier lifestyle choices.





Reaching Kentucky Families

KSU Family and Consumer Sciences promotes healthy homes and communities

Dr. Joanne Bankston leads Kentucky State University's Cooperative Extension Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) program. Family and Consumer Sciences Extension programs at KSU are designed to strengthen families and to improve their quality of life through educational outreach efforts that connect research to their everyday lives. Many of these programs assist limited-resource audiences and focus on food and nutrition, promoting healthy lifestyle choices, strengthening the family at every lifecycle stage, building financial security and stability, Hispanic outreach programs, disaster preparedness, and promoting healthy homes and communities.

Dr. Bankston promotes her curriculum packages for educational programs to general audiences, youth, and agents. Some of her work includes "Get More Bang for Your Buck: A Plan for Spending Your Money," "Stretching Your Holiday Dollar," "MoneyPower: Wise Decisions About Your Money and Your Life for College Students," "Blue Jeans and Tennis Shoes: Planning a Comfortable and Happy Retirement," and "Legally Secure Your Financial Future."

"I am most proud of the fact that for more than 40 years I have had the opportunity to work with and provide educational programs to Kentucky citizens and

groups and organizations nationwide to assist them in improving their quality of life," Bankston says.

KSU's FCS program serves communities across the state focusing on Ballard, Butler, Campbell, Clay, Fulton, Graves, Hardin, Henderson, Grayson, Johnson, Kenton, Knox, McClean, Mercer, Monroe, Pike, Rockcastle, and Simpson counties in the last year. The university has Family and Consumer Sciences Extension agents in Fayette County (Carla Jordan), Jefferson County (Monique Pearce-Brady), and Kenton County (Linda Brown-Price). Other FCS programs offered include an earned income tax credit program, Dr. Bankston's work with General Electric, and Kentucky State University's Rosenwald Center for Families and Children, which is located on the college's main campus in Frankfort.

Recently, Dr. Bankston was named a Legend in Family and Consumer Sciences at the 2016 annual conference and expo of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences with the unveiling of her biography in the publication, *Leaders in Family and Consumer Sciences*. She is also the recipient of the Excellence in Extension award from the Association of Extension Administrators for her outstanding contributions to Cooperative Extension at an 1890 Land Grant Institution.

Dr. Joanne Bankston, Family and Consumer Sciences Program Coordinator and State Extension Specialist





Fostering a Diverse Workplace

KSU works to build multicultural programming on campus and in the community

As an 1890 Land Grant University, Kentucky State University's Cooperative Extension Program complies with federal civil rights laws and regulations. In addition to compliance, the College of Agriculture, Food Science, and Sustainable Systems strives to plan, develop, deliver, and facilitate educational programs and training opportunities to build capacity and understanding of multicultural, diverse, and inclusive living, learning and working environments.

State Extension Specialist Nancy Cáliz works to organize this effort.

"We hope that capacity building of Extension professionals on diversity and inclusion as well as civil rights compliance will allow for programs to reach diverse audiences throughout the state," Cáliz says.

Cáliz also leads the implementation of Extension

activities at the Rosenwald Center for Families and Children, which include the weekly Thursday Learning Experience at Rosenwald that asks experts from KSU's Land Grant Extension and collaborating agencies to bring educational programs to the center so families and community members leave with real skills they can implement in their daily home life.

She serves as co-principal investigator for the Children, Youth, and Families at Risk (CYFAR) Sustainable Community Project grants. Cáliz assists in providing guidance and oversight to grant administration at the project sites. The CYFAR project reaches low-income families and youth from Franklin and Fayette counties.

Cáliz has served families and children for 23 years as a school teacher, in student support services, as an adjunct instructor, in Extension programming, and in early childhood settings.

Nancy Cáliz, State Extension Specialist



EXTRAORDINARY EXTENSION.

- **Youth development** outreach to more than **4,200 Kentucky youth** allows KSU to provide science-based programming and STEM careers.
- KSU's Fish Disease Diagnostic Lab **saves aquaculture producers over \$136,000** by performing tests and inspections in Kentucky.
- **Farmers in Wayne County save \$250,000** by using poultry litter and with improved accuracy of fertilizer applications.
- KSU coordinates more than **1,200 hours** of volunteer service through the **Jefferson County** Master Gardner Program.
- **Wayne County students** harvest over **\$2,000 of produce**, saving their school approximately \$4,000 with a school gardening project.
- Corn producers in Wayne County **increase average yields** by 20 bushels per acre resulting in a **net profit of \$15,000** for one 225-acre crop.
- KSU's **Small Farm Outreach** has helped small and disadvantaged farmers average over **\$3.75 million** annually in increased producer incomes, **\$1 million** in annual producer savings, and realized local multiplier effects projected to be **\$9 million** annually.
- KSU provides **technical assistance to small farmers** applying for grants to implement aquaculture, value-added, and organic projects. One-hundred forty-seven have been approved for \$636,246 with most of the projects in the **Promise and Strike Force Zones**.
- KSU provides ongoing technical assistance to the Fairview Produce Auction in **Christian County**, which is located in the **Strike Force Zone**. Its revenues have grown to **\$5 million in annual sales**.
- With KSU's assistance, more than 200 people apply for the Earned Income Tax Credit, receiving estimated returns of **over \$400,000**.
- KSU's SKY Families program in Lexington helps **25% of the 173 families** it aids reunite with their children.





Lights, Camera,.....Agriculture

Communications team promotes agriculture research and Extension across the region

One of the biggest challenges faced by professionals across the agriculture industry is sharing the message of the great work being done in the field. New research discoveries, advancements in technology, and improved farming practices are leading the charge to secure a bright future for agriculture. But across the country, from the U.S. Department of Agriculture down to the county Extension office, many struggle to get their information out to farmers, communities, and stakeholders.

The College of Agriculture, Food Science, and Sustainable Systems has a dedicated and diverse communications team that strives to promote those successes through video, photography, graphics, publicity, social media, and community events.

Investing in the importance of communicating these messages, Kentucky State University's Land Grant Program upgraded its on-campus video production studio to high-definition in order to create modern educational, promotional, and instruction-based videos to help inform farmers and community members about research and extension efforts happening at the university.

"The work of our research and Extension staff is important and impactful," says Blair Hess, media and communications manager for the Land Grant Program. "It is our job to make sure that work makes a lasting impression on the community."

Trevor Claiborn, farm technician and Extension assistant in Agriculture, Food, and Environment, created Farmer Brown Tha MC, the character of a rapping farmer who creates hip-hop content to educate youth about agricultural and environmental sciences. Farmer Brown reaches out to urban, limited-resource families and students who may have never previously considered the agriculture industry as a possible educational and career path.

In 2017, the Land Grant communications team, which is made up of Hess and Claiborn along with Dennis Thomas, Joe Allen, Charles Weibel, Wyvette Williams, Saundra Birch, Lyndsey McGaha, Greg Smith, and Ashley Craigmyle, will work to bring educational opportunities to communities we've previously been unable to reach. This will be achieved through additional upgrades and community partnerships with the Kentucky Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Kentucky Department of Education. The new technology will help KSU Extension create innovative productions to promote sustainable economies, environments, communities, and families.





LAND GRANT PROGRAM