

#### **MCLEAN COUNTY** Amber Meeks, County Extension Agent *Family & Consumer Sciences*



# BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES FOR KENTUCKY

# OUR FOCUS

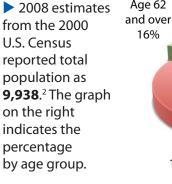
► Family and Consumer Sciences Extension is committed to improving the quality of life for individuals and families in McLean County resulting in strong families for Kentucky. Educational programs focus on:

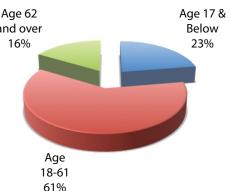
#### Making Beneficial Lifestyle Choices Nurturing Families Embracing Life as You Age Securing Financial Stability Promoting Healthy Homes and Communities Accessing Nutritious Food Empowering Community Leaders

Family and Consumer Sciences Extension made **1,024** contacts with McLean County families during 2008-2009.<sup>1</sup>

# OUR PEOPLE

Figure 1. Population by Age Group<sup>2</sup> (n=9,938)





# SPOTLIGHT ON...

# ACCESSING NUTRITIOUS FOOD

ver the past four years, Extension has made an effort to teach young people how to prepare nutritious snacks and meals. In McLean County, the 4-H Agent, Family and Consumer Sciences agent and Nutrition Education Program assistant worked together to conduct Super Star Chef Cooking Schools to fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders who were interested in learning basic food preparation. Fortyseven students learned such skills as how to use a knife, correct hand washing, safety in the kitchen, how to read a recipe and how to prepare healthy nutritious meals. A day camp was held to teach ad-

ditional skills from Extension's "Fantastic Foods" curriculum. As a result of these efforts, many parents said their children improved their cooking skills, and some parents expressed interest in improving their own.<sup>1</sup>





### OUR COMMUNITY

Unemployment rates are a key economic indicator. In August 2009, the rate of unemployment in McLean County was 11.8%.<sup>3</sup>

Mortgage and bank card delinquency rates and foreclosure filings are important financial indicators of community wellbeing. In McLean County, **1.56%** of

#### As a result of participation in McLean County Extension programs:<sup>1</sup>

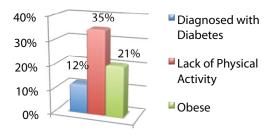
- 88 people were involved in addressing issues of their community.
- **20** people increased their knowledge of governmental process.
- **5** people expanded their knowledge of economic development.

mortgages are 90-days delinquent and 60-day bank card delinquency rates have increased by **0.75%**.<sup>4</sup> In a one-year period (October 2008 through October 2009), **11** foreclosures were filed.<sup>5</sup>

Access to health insurance is another important factor contributing to family well-being. In McLean County, **13%** of the people under age 65 are uninsured.<sup>6</sup>

## OUR HEALTH

► The health of our people contributes to quality of life. The chart below illustrates health risks of adults in McLean County. *Figure 2. Health Risks.*<sup>6</sup>

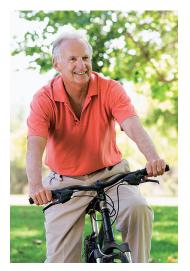


#### As a result of participation in McLean County Extension programs:<sup>1</sup>

- **755** people increased knowledge of practices to maintain health and well-being.
- **216** people increase knowledge of safe practices to store, handle, and prepare food.
- **141** people implemented practices to maintain health and well-being.

### OUR FAMILIES

- ► Using data from the 2000 U.S. Census, McLean County families can be described as follows:<sup>2</sup>
- 2,881 families reside in the county.
- 399 families (13.7%) live below poverty level.
- Median family income is \$35,322.
- **124** grandparents are responsible for the care of their grandchildren.



According to the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, **541** people in McLean County receive food stamps. The average family food stamp benefit is **\$216.27** per month.<sup>7</sup>

In the county, **30** children live in out-of-home care.<sup>8</sup>

In 2005, there were **14** incidents of adult abuse and **67** incidents of child abuse.<sup>9</sup>

#### As a result of participation in McLean County Extension programs:<sup>1</sup>

- **255** adults and youth improved their ability to make informed and effective decisions.
- **252** people adopted money management practices to reduce debt and/or increase savings.
- **116** adults and youth improved practical living skills.

#### **SOURCES**

- <sup>1</sup> Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, Impacting Reporting, FY2009.
   <sup>2</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000.
- <sup>3</sup> Kentucky Office of Employment and Training, Kentucky Labor Force Estimates, August 2009.
- <sup>4</sup>TransUnion LLC., Trend Data, Quarter 1 2009.
- <sup>5</sup> Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts, November, 2009.
- <sup>6</sup> Kentucky Institute of Medicine, The Health of Kentucky: A County Assessment, 2007.
- <sup>7</sup> Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Data Book, June 2008.
- <sup>8</sup> Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kentucky KIDS COUNT, 2005.
  <sup>9</sup> Kentucky Department for Public Health. County Health Priorities. 2004.