Family and Consumer Sciences Extension is committed to improving the health and well-being of individuals and families in Lee County. To help families make wise decisions, our educational programs focus on:

- **Making Healthy Lifestyle Choices** that influence health and well-being
- **Nurturing Families** as they cope with fewer resources and more demands
- **Embracing Life as We Age** to strive for independence longer
- **Securing Financial Stability** in a turbulent economic period
- **Promoting Healthy Homes and Communities** to recycle, reduce waste, and protect our environment
- **Accessing Nutritious Food** that is affordable, available and safe
- **Empowering Community Leaders** as we all work to sustain and improve our communities

In 2012-2013, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension made 4,744 contacts with Lee County individuals and families.

Lee County is ranked among the top three most impoverished counties in the state of Kentucky. The Lee County Cooperative Extension Service strives to reach the families most in need and educate them on ways to extend their resources. As part of that initiative, extension offers food preservation programs throughout the year, teaching ways to preserve garden produce, create healthy meals, and keep summer fruits and vegetables available into the winter months. In 2013, the programs reached more than 44 families, with more than 95 percent of participants reporting that they successfully canned fresh foods from their gardens as a result of program participation.

http://hes.uky.edu/StrongFamilies
According to the 2007-2011 American Community Survey,\(^3\) in Lee County...

- **41.6%** (+/- 10.0) of families with children were below poverty
- **22.7%** (+/- 8.6) of those ages 65 and over were below poverty
- **18.4%** (+/- 3.6) of households had retirement income
- **13.5%** (+/- 3.7) of households had no vehicle

The Food Environment Atlas indicates that in 2010, Lee County had **247** households with no vehicle and low access to a supermarket or large grocery store.*

As a result of participating in Lee County Extension programs: \(^2\)

- **188** people increased knowledge of economic and enterprise development.
- **155** people in Managing in Tough Times: Moneywi$e identified financial management strategies for their family.
- **22** people were involved in addressing community issues.

**COMMUNITY AVAILABILITY**

In 2011, Lee County had:

- **2** Grocery stores (any kind)\(^5\)
  - **1** Grocery/supermarket (except convenience)\(^5\)
  - **1** Convenience store (i.e. food marts – no gas)\(^5\)
- **5** Gasoline stations with convenience stores\(^5\)

In the county, there were:

- **1** Roadside market that served the county\(^6\)
- **1** Farmers market location\(^7\)
- **18** SNAP** authorized stores (food stamps)\(^4\)
- **5** WIC*** authorized stores\(^4\)

In 2011, there were **$283,118.53** in SNAP redemptions/per SNAP authorized store in Lee County.\(^4\)

As a result of participating in Lee County Extension programs: \(^2\)

- **33** people in Plate it Up! Kentucky Proud plan to increase fruit consumption.
- **155** people in Managing in Tough Times: Moneywi$e became aware of how to manage current economic events.
- **21** people in Managing in Tough Times: Moneywi$e implemented a plan to decrease expenses.

**FOOD ASSISTANCE**

In Lee County...

- **830** was the average monthly number of children who received SNAP** (food stamps) in 2011, up from **793** children in 2007 (up **4.7%**).\(^9\)
- **77.0%** of students attending public schools were eligible for free or reduced-price meals.\(^9\)
- There were **1,795** SNAP cases and the monthly SNAP benefit level was **$227.90**.\(^8\)

Lee County is served by God’s Pantry Food Bank of the Ky. Assoc. of Food Banks.\(^10\)

As a result of participating in Lee County Extension programs: \(^2\)

- **37** people in Plate it Up! Kentucky Proud plan to increase vegetable consumption.
- **65** people in Plate it Up! Kentucky Proud indicated they are more likely to buy produce.
- **55** people in Plate it Up! Kentucky Proud indicated they are more likely to buy Kentucky produce.

**HOUSEHOLD INCOME**

Median household income in past 12 months by age of householder in Lee County (2007-2011)\(^3\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>United States</th>
<th>Kentucky</th>
<th>Lee County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 to 44 years</td>
<td>$21,574 (+/- $10,267)</td>
<td>$25,732 (+/- $6,113)</td>
<td>$21,574 (+/- $10,267)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 64 years</td>
<td>$21,574 (+/- $10,267)</td>
<td>$25,732 (+/- $6,113)</td>
<td>$34,175 (+/- $3,841)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 years and over</td>
<td>$20,977 (+/- $5,564)</td>
<td>$23,449 (+/- $5,872)</td>
<td>$20,977 (+/- $5,564)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCES**

1. Kentucky State Data Center
2. Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service-Reporting, FY 2013
3. 2007-2011 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates
9. Kids Count Data Center, KY Youth Advocates

*Low access is defined as more than 10 miles in a rural area and more than 1 mile in an urban area.*

**SNAP** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

**WIC** The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children