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 live independently longer
- **Securing Financial Stability** in a turbulent economic period
- **Promoting Healthy Homes and Communities** that 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 2013-2014, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension made 3,625 contacts with Lee County individuals and families.

Lee County is ranked among the top three most impoverished counties in Kentucky. The Lee County Cooperative Extension Service strives to reach the families most in need and provide programs that will educate county residents 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% of participants reporting that they had successfully canned fresh foods from their gardens as a result of their participation in the program.

http://hes.uky.edu/StrongFamilies
Housing has long been recognized as a basic human need. Yet, because housing is often a family’s largest expense and largest debt, it can be a stumbling block for many. Safe, lower-cost housing options are often limited for struggling families, and this can lead them into crisis. Family and Consumer Sciences Extension helps people improve home safety, lessen their environmental footprint, and strengthen financial stability. It also helps communities promote healthy lifestyles throughout the lifespan by supporting strong family home environments. Please tell us ways you think we can do more.

**AVAILABILITY**

In 2010, in Lee County, there were…
- 743 renter households
- 2,167 homeowner households
- 71 vacant housing units for rent
- 25 vacant housing units for sale

According to the Kentucky Department of Education, in 2012-2013, 211 children were homeless or were precariously housed in Lee County.

**AFFORDABILITY**

According to American Community Survey estimates for Lee County, in 2008-2012…
- 47.3% (+/- 12.4) of renter households paid 35% or more of their income for rent and utilities
- 32.3% (+/- 9.5) of homeowner households with a mortgage and 10.5% (+/- 4.3) of homeowner households without a mortgage paid 35% or more of their income for housing costs
- 61.5% (+/- 5.4) of homeowner households did not have a mortgage
- 31.4% (+/- 5.4) of all housing units were mobile homes

According to the most recent poverty estimates, in 2012, 41.0% (+/- 7.2) of residents in the county were living below poverty.

In 2013, residents needed to earn $10.87 an hour (or work 1.5 jobs at $7.25 an hour**) to afford a two-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent in Lee County.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY**

In Lee County, it is estimated that in 2008-2012…
- half of all renter-occupied housing was built before 1975 (+/- 3 years)
- half of all owner-occupied housing was built before 1982 (+/- 3 years)

According to 2008-2012 American Community Survey estimates in Lee County…
- 13.6% (+/- 4.0) of all households had no landline or cell phone
- 33.2% (+/- 6.9) of workers living in Lee County worked in Kentucky but outside the county and 0.4% (+/- 0.7) worked outside the state
- Half of all workers traveled 30.5 (+/- 4.4) or more minutes to work

**Estimated percentage of households without a vehicle (2008-2012)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Range</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.4-5.4%</td>
<td>8.2-11.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.6-7.9%</td>
<td>11.4-15.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sources:**
1. Kentucky Cooperative Extension reporting. FY 2014
2. 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau
3. 2010 Decennial Census, U.S. Census Bureau
5. 2010 Kentucky Dept. of Education http://education.ky.gov/federal/programs/50Pages/TK-Docs.aspx (Data for school districts were combined to produce the county total.)
6. Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau
7. Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau
8. Out Of Reach 2014. National Low Income Housing Coalition
9. Data refer to housing tenure (owner or renter).
10. The current federal minimum wage