BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES IN UNION COUNTY

OUR FOCUS
Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Extension is committed to improving the health and well-being of individuals and families throughout Kentucky. Our educational programs focus on making healthy lifestyle choices, nurturing families, embracing life as we age, securing financial stability, promoting healthy homes and communities, accessing nutritious food, and empowering community leaders.

OUR SUCCESS
In 2016-2017, Cooperative Extension made 9,158 contacts with individuals and families in Union County.

Melanie Bealmear
County Extension Agent, Family and Consumer Sciences Education

A HEALTHIER KENTUCKY
Making healthy lifestyle choices

Easy access to unhealthy foods, increased stress, and limited opportunities for physical activity all create challenges and barriers for Kentucky families in making healthy lifestyle choices. Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Extension programming through the University of Kentucky teaches families to improve health and well-being by choosing a nutritious diet, increasing health literacy to help prevent chronic diseases, or participating in regular physical activity. Our goal is to equip citizens with the knowledge, resources, and an environment where the healthy choice is the easy choice.

Number of farmers market locations by Kentucky county

- 0 (7 counties)
- 1-2 (73 counties)
- 3-4 (34 counties)
- 5-7 (4 counties)
- 8+ (2 counties)
**OUR COUNTY**

- Union County had 4 supermarkets and other grocery stores and 13 convenience stores or gas stations with convenience stores in 2015.²
- According to Map the Meal Gap, in 2015, an estimated 2,800 individuals were food insecure in Union County.³
- Only 6.1% (13.1%-2.7%) of adults in Union County consumed five or more servings of fruits and vegetables per day between 2013-2015.⁵

**OUR RESULTS**

- 46 individuals reported eating more healthy foods.¹
- 55 individuals are more likely to buy Kentucky fruits or vegetables because they tasted Plate It Up! Kentucky Proud recipe samples.¹

**OUR COUNTY**

- The median household income in Union County was $45,239 ($49,794-$40,684) in 2015.⁸
- In Union County, 257 was the average monthly number of infants and children assisted by WIC* in 2013.⁹
- In 2015, there were 1,838 SNAP/food stamp recipients.¹⁰
- 10.0% (±3.3%) of people age 65 and over were below poverty between 2011-2015¹¹ and 19.1% (23.9%-14.3%) of children ages 5-17 in families were below poverty in 2015.⁹
- Between 2011 and 2015, 8.0% (±2.4%) of full-time/full-year workers were below poverty.¹¹

**Physical Environment**

**OUR COUNTY**

- According to the CDC’s County Diabetes Atlas, 30.7% (37.4%-25.2%) of adults 18 years and over in Union County were obese between 2012 and 2014.⁶
- The Diabetes Atlas also reports that between 2012 and 2014, 27.2% (32.7%-22.4%) of adults in Union County reported no leisure-time exercise in the past month.⁶
- There was 1 fitness and recreation business in Union County in 2015.³

**OUR RESULTS**

- 5 individuals adopted physical activity practices.¹
- Extension is involved in 4 healthy lifestyle coalitions.¹
- 44 individuals demonstrated that they had spent time being physically active.¹

**Financial Environment**

**OUR COUNTY**

- 21% of all children in Union County ages 17 and under were below poverty in 2015.⁸

**SOURCES:**

1. Kentucky Cooperative Extension Reporting, FY 2017
3. U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 County Business Patterns, (factfinder.census.gov)
7. Kids Count Data Center, (datacenter.kidscount.org)
9. 2015 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau (factfinder.census.gov)
10. Margin of error: (±16%-25%)
11. WIC is the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk.
12. 2015 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau (factfinder.census.gov)

For more information and to download this and other county profiles, visit hes.uky.edu/StrongFamilies