

LETCHER COUNTY

Alice Bradley,
County Extension Agent, Family & Consumer Sciences

BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES FOR KENTUCKY 2012



OUR FOCUS

Family and Consumer Sciences Extension is committed to improving the quality of life for individuals and families in Letcher County. As the current economic situation continues to create challenges, educational programs focus on:

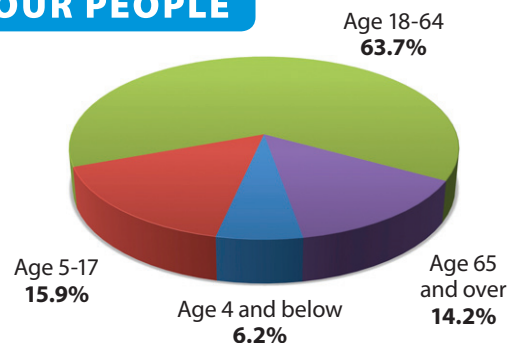
- **Making Healthy Lifestyle Choices** that influence health and well-being
- **Nurturing Families** as they cope with fewer resources and more demands
- **Embracing Life as We Age** to strive for independence longer
- **Securing Financial Stability** in a turbulent economic period
- **Promoting Healthy 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 2010-2011, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension made **9,166** contacts with Letcher County individuals and families.²

OUR PEOPLE

Population by Age Group¹

The 2010 U.S. Census reported total population in Letcher County as **24,519**.¹



SPOTLIGHT ON ...

MAKING HEALTHY LIFESTYLE CHOICES

Creating awareness of ovarian cancer has been a major emphasis for Letcher County Family and Consumer Sciences Agent. The agent provided information to groups at health fairs, through news articles, and to medical professionals and individuals. This year the agent presented the Kentucky Extension Homemaker and UK-supported Extension Homemaker leader training, "Ovarian Cancer Awareness Tea," in seven Quicksand-area counties. Of approximately 80 participants, all expressed a greater awareness of ovarian cancer. As a result of collaboration between UK Markey Cancer Center's free ovarian cancer screening program and Letcher County Family and Consumer Sciences Agent, approximately 185 local women are now being screened at Markey each year, with transportation provided by Cooperative Extension.

OUR FAMILIES

According to the 2010 Census,¹ of families in Letcher County with their own children...

- **68.8%** are husband-wife families
- **31.2%** are single parent families

In addition, there are:

- **10,014** households
- **3,155** households with 1 or more persons under the age of 18
- **654** grandchildren under 18 years old who live with a grandparent householder
- **2,644** households with at least one person age 65 and over



As a result of participation in Letcher County Extension programs:²

- **1,988** people increased knowledge of lifestyle changes to improve personal health.
- **3308** adults and youth improved their ability to make informed and effective decisions.
- **325** people increased knowledge of safe storage, handling and food preparation.

OUR COMMUNITY

In 2009, the most recent data available, the median household income in Letcher County was **\$29,835**.³

The number of children in poverty in Letcher County was **1,864** compared to **1,907** in 2006.³

The total number of people receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits in Letcher County is **7,236** in 2011.⁴

As a result of participation in Letcher County Extension programs:²

- **2,249** people increased leadership knowledge and skills.
- **3,581** people improved communication skills to address community issues.
- **792** people developed skills to access affordable food.

OUR ECONOMY

According to the 2010 American Community Survey 5-year estimates,⁶ between 2005 and 2009 in Letcher County it is estimated that...

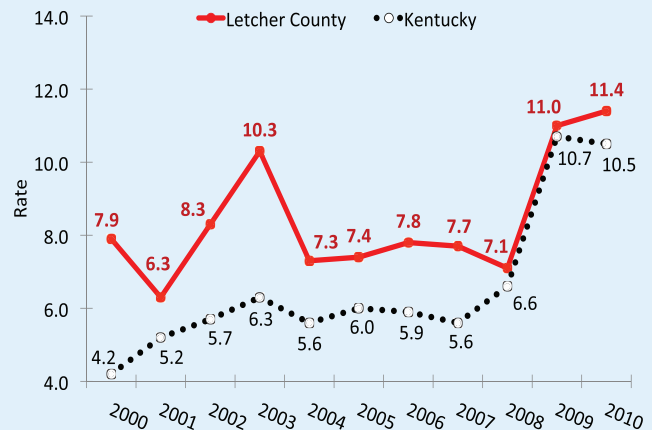
- **32.2%** (+/- **4**) are married-couple families with both husband and wife in the labor force
- **34.9%** (+/- **11.9**) are children under 6 years old with all parents in the labor force
- **24.1%** (+/- **6**) are people 65 years and over below poverty level during the past 12 months

As a result of participation in Letcher County Extension programs:²

- **231** people increased knowledge of economic and enterprise development.
- **845** people adopted money management practices to reduce debt and increase savings.
- **2,145** people demonstrated increased practical living skills.

Average Annual Unemployment Rate⁵

(not seasonally adjusted)



SOURCES

- ¹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Decennial Census.
- ² Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, Impact Reporting, FY2011.
- ³ U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates.
- ⁴ Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Databook, June 2011.
- ⁵ Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics.
- ⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates.