

Kentucky Extension Advisory Council
Summer Meeting - August 28, 2025
Summary Points



Administrative Greetings and Updates

- *Kentucky State University (KSU):*
 - Kentucky State University President Dr. Koffi Akakpo welcomed attendees to the KSU Harold R. Benson Research Farm and thanked delegates for their commitment to Kentucky Extension.
 - Dr. Tyrell Kahan, Associate Extension Administrator at KSU, highlighted several marquee KSU programs and recognized new hires in land-grant programs. Dr. Kahan shared his background in veterinary medicine and his management of international livestock research programs with the US Agency for International Development. He is excited about his new role and looks forward to enhancing impactful Extension programs.
 - Dr. Marcus Bernard, Dean, College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, and Director of Land-grant Programs welcomed attendees to Kentucky State University. He recognized Dr. Tyrell Kahan, recently appointed Associate Extension Administrator at KSU and voiced appreciation for the support of Extension volunteers and leaders across the state.
- *University of Kentucky (UK):*
 - Dr. Jennifer Hunter, incoming Associate Dean and Extension Director role at UK, shared that she looks forward to her new role. She noted that 4-H summer camps achieved a new record, with over 14,000 participants this year. In addition, she highlighted a few key statistics from the recently completed program year: 1,500 Kentucky ag businesses retained or expanded, 3,500 individuals learned new skills for workforce readiness, 1,100 Kentuckians accessed the online asynchronous Question, Persuade, Refer training and more than 8,000 nurses have completed a continuing education program focused on understanding rural and farm stress and the neurologic impact of stress.
 - Dr. Laura Stephenson, Vice President for Land-grant Engagement and Dean, Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment thanked council delegates for their support. She encouraged delegates to thank the members of our Congressional delegation for their efforts to maintain Smith-Lever funding for Extension and Hatch funding for research while acknowledging the significant loss to our system from the elimination of the SNAP-Education program funds.

Community Development and Workforce Readiness

The meeting agenda included a focus on programming across the past five years related to community development and workforce readiness, a top three issue in the 2019 Extension Community Assessment.

- 4-H Beyond Ready is focused on the intersection of positive youth development principles and beyond ready practices that build a generation that is healthy, productive and engaged, with skills for work and life.
- Time Well Spent, Positive Employability and Recovering Your Finances are all programs within UK Family and Consumer Sciences Extension that improve personal skills that contribute to workforce preparation and economic development.

- KSU's Scam-Safe and Money Ready bridges the intersection of community resource development and disaster health and wellness to address workforce fraud and financial preparedness. The programming addresses employment scams, online scams and the importance of having an emergency fund.
- The Produce Best Practices programs focus on educating producers and processors to comply with local and federal food safety requirements. Through a commitment to ongoing food safety, growers increase buyer confidence, build market opportunities and boost sales. More than 1,000 growers have benefited from the programming efforts.
- CREATE BRIDGES was a data driven program for multi-county regions to enhance retail and hospitality industries. The process was built to raise awareness, determine challenges, and implement strategies to strengthen retail, accommodations, tourism and entertainment sectors. The resulting curriculum is available through the [Blueprint Kentucky website](#).
- The Urban Growers Program is a unique KSU outreach focused on building equitable food systems and economic development in West Louisville. Experienced and aspiring growers participated in workshops and elective work to improve production capacity, increase access to buyers and lower start-up costs through shared tools and infrastructure.
- Following the series of presentations, council delegates engaged in small group discussions focused on Extension opportunities in the next five years related to work and life skill development and financial security and economic well-being for both youth and adult audiences.

2025 Randall Barnett Outstanding County Extension Council Award

The 2025 Randall Barnett Outstanding County Extension Council Award was presented to Breathitt County. Morgan County leaders Kim Burton, Jamie Burton, RV Lockard, Susie Blevins and Wayne Tyree, along with agents Kim Lane, Ethan Pugh and Lacy May were in attendance to accept the award.

Council Business Meeting

- The Council Engagement Committee shared potential topics for webinars, including avoiding scams and understanding artificial intelligence.
- Outgoing delegates with terms ending December 31, 2025 were recognized: Daron Bell, West 6 Area Delegate; Edgar Davis, East 2 Area Delegate; Dwayne Duncan, KSU West Region Delegate; Tim Goodin, West 1 Area Delegate; Kevin Kenady, West 7 Area Delegate; Mary Ellen Miller, 4-H Delegate; Cherie Mingus, FCS Delegate; Carl Rollins, Central 4 Area Delegate; and Becky Utz, Central 8 Area Delegate.
- Jeff Zinner shared tips and next steps with delegates including:
 - Delegates representing specific areas are asked to ensure the meeting summary points are shared with the county councils within their area, either via attendance at a meeting, email, or any other means that work within the area.
 - All delegates are encouraged to be a voice for local county council and state or local programmatic councils.
 - While nominations for the Randall Barnett Outstanding County Extension Council Award are submitted in the spring, SEAC delegates are asked to promote the award year-round.