

# Kentucky Extension Advisory Council

## Summer Meeting - July 25, 2024

### Summary Points

- Kentucky State University Extension updates (Dr. Noel Novelo) highlighted several marquee programs: the Small Farm Conference scheduled November 21-23, 2024, and the East Kentucky-style conference offered annually; the ag discovery summer youth program; the 4-H Summer Transportation Institute; the ever-popular Third Thursday workshops; and the fourth Wednesday beef cattle workshops.
- University of Kentucky Extension updates (Dr. Laura Stephenson) highlighted several key Extension faculty positions spanning across programs areas that have recently filled or are in the hiring process. Dr. Stephenson also shared a unique new two-year position – an Extension Agent for Digital Literacy to be located in Northern Kentucky that will work in partnership with the Northern Kentucky Area Development District. She provided updates on building projects, including rebuilding at Robinson Center and Princeton, new and renovated buildings on-campus at UK, and new buildings planned for the Oran Little Research Farm. Information about these projects is available at <https://future.ca.uky.edu>. Dr. Stephenson reviewed the 15 top issues identified through the recent Extension Community Assessment and demonstrated how the issues connect to three overall themes of strengthening Kentucky’s farms, food systems and natural resources; building the health and wellbeing of Kentuckians; and engaging communities for vibrant economies. She closed her comments by reminding attendees of our why – the joint effort between UK and KSU, the commitment to grassroots programming informed by research and the mission to improve the lives of Kentuckians.
- A series of speakers focused on the upcoming Extension plan of work process.
  - Jeremy Teal and Janey Cline highlighted the importance of the plan of work, described how the plan of work guides programming, and emphasized connecting the work of both UK and KSU through the plan of work.
  - Melissa Bond demonstrated how data profiles can help guide community programming through an example connecting the goal of strengthening youth workforce development to multiple data sources. She emphasized considering data in identifying priority issues and utilizing data to define program strategies. Melissa highlighted data profiles available for use during the plan of work process (visit <https://extension.ca.uky.edu/community-assessment>.)
  - Council delegates engaged in discussion regarding key needs and opportunities for Extension programming in the next five years.
  - Kim Henken reviewed the plan of work timeline that culminates with implementation beginning July 1, 2025.
  - Karen Hill reminded delegates of the importance of council involvement in the plan of work process and encouraged attendees to be advocates for involvement at the county level.
  - Daniel Wilson and Janey Cline highlighted that the plan of work is a shared process between agents and advisory councils and thanked council members for their leadership.

## Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Family and Consumer Sciences  
4-H Youth Development  
Community and Economic Development

## MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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- Administrative greetings and remarks were provided by Dr. Avinash Topè, Interim Director, Land-grant Programs; Associate Professor, Human Nutrition and Food Safety; Associate Dean, College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, at Kentucky State University and Dr. Nancy Cox, Vice President for Land-grant Engagement and Dean of the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment at the University of Kentucky.
  - Dr. Topè welcomed the council to Kentucky State University's research farm and thanked the members for their support of Extension. He also recognized the KSU employees who helped facilitate the meeting.
  - Vice President Cox shared a message of gratitude to the council for their support throughout her tenure as Dean of the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment at UK. She noted that the search for a new dean is in progress and indicated this would most likely be her last meeting with the group prior to her retirement from the leadership role. Karen Hill presented Dr. Cox with a token of appreciation on behalf of the council.
- The 2024 Randall Barnett Outstanding County Extension Council Award was presented to Breathitt County. Council chair Marty Hayes and agents Reed Graham and Stacy Trent were in attendance to accept the award on behalf of Breathitt County.
- The following are highlights from the business meeting.
  - The Council Engagement Committee shared potential topics for webinars, including recruiting County Extension Council members, training for leaders on marketing Extension, and a tutorial for the Randall Barnett Outstanding County Extension Council Award.
  - The nominating committee recommended candidates for officer terms beginning January 1, 2025. The following were nominated and elected: Jeff Zinner, president; Terry Cauley, vice president; and Janet Hobbs, secretary.
  - Outgoing delegates with terms ending December 31, 2024 were recognized: Polly Baker, West 8 Area Delegate; Tanya Berry, Kentucky State University Delegate; Diane Cushman, Kentucky State University Delegate; Sandy Ellington, East 7 Area Delegate; Gary Ford, Central 5 Area Delegate; Jim Gilles, Agriculture and Natural Resources Delegate; Vicky Greenwell, East 3 Area Delegate; Kathy Lauer, Central 8 Area Delegate; Barbra Ledford, East 4 Area Delegate; Ann Davis McClain, Central 2 Area Delegate; and Linda Thomas, West 4 Area Delegate.
  - Jeff Zinner and Terry Cauley were recognized for their terms as vice president and secretary, respectively. Karen Hill was presented with a plaque in recognition of her term as president.
- Karen Hill 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 works within the area.
  - All delegates are encouraged to actively participate in the plan of work process in their local counties and to promote the plan of work process to counties in their areas.
  - 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.