

SRPLN FCS State Report 2012

Reporting Institution: 1862 1890 (check one)

Name of Institution University of Kentucky

Budget Status: A 6.9% cut was imposed on higher education by the Legislature. This has translated into similar cuts beginning July 1 within College units. Further cuts are expected in October as the University realigns budgets in anticipation of planned university building infrastructure and personnel (2103 raises) expenditures.

How is the Institution Addressing the Situation?

Reallocation of resources within units and departments, elimination of positions (faculty and staff), increased county based assessments for CES programs, and continued pool of vacant county positions.

Staffing Update (field and state office):

Extension faculty lines across the college have decreased, 30 county based positions are held vacant to balance the budget, and state staff (associates, non faculty specialists, and assistants) have decreased.

Top 3 Program Highlights of Current Year: (program, collaborators, and impacts)

Focus on Family Food Choices: Local Food Access

Two programs have been developed and implemented to encourage family's nutritious food choices through access to local food. These include Plate it Up! Kentucky Proud and Kentucky Farm To School Curriculum.

Plate it Up! Kentucky Proud

The need to provide FCS Agents with educational resources that promote increased consumption of fruits and vegetables and the opportunity to build a partnership with Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Kentucky Proud buy local produce campaign was the impetus of this successful project. With funding from USDA Specialty Crops grant, Extension agents, Extension faculty, and NFS students coordinated efforts to select, test, and develop recipes featuring Kentucky grown produce. Over the course of the project cycle, 107 recipes have been tested and 33 have been developed into recipe cards for consumer distribution. Demonstration guides and media scripts have been developed to promote the Kentucky produce featured in the recipe cards. Over 614,000 recipe cards have been distributed in all 120 counties. Pre and post survey assessment of consumer behavior change as a result of demonstration and/or recipe card access was conducted. Preliminary data indicates that the recipe cards positively impact point of purchase sales. Pre and post survey assessment of producers usage of the cards at point of purchase are being conducted during this summer harvest season.

Kentucky Farm to School Curriculum

This eight session classroom curriculum was developed through a partnership between the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service. The classroom curriculum helps high school students:

- * Recognize the sources of their foods;
- * Explain the relationship of locally produced food to improved quality and nutrition;

- * Understand the importance of thriving agricultural businesses to healthy communities;
- * Identify the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in the farming industry;
- * Increase their consumption of locally produced food and agricultural products; and
- * Improve their diets.

The program was introduced in May for statewide partnerships with local schools, Extension and school food service professionals

Building Capacity for Military Families in Kentucky

Over the past year, building capacity for Military Families in Kentucky has been a major thrust for UK FCS Extension. Trainings, programs, contributions, partnerships, and grants and research have all increased to build capacity for and focus on family reintegration.

Training Highlights

- Twelve “Ready, Set, Go!” trainings were held across the state for more than 1,100 participants. The purpose of this training is to increase awareness of the unique needs of military families and military culture and to equip people with ideas of how to reach out to and support geographically dispersed military families in their own communities. Evaluation data revealed an average 8.4 on a 10-point scale for achievement of purpose at Ready, Set, Go! trainings.
- Two state-wide trainings were also held called “Serving Them While They Serve US,” which focused on Extension’s role in supporting military families. The overall trend in the quantitative data demonstrated an increase in knowledge of all training areas, including ways to increase resiliency in military families, ways to decrease stress in military families, resources available to military families, ways to help military families reconnect, communicate, and problem-solve, knowledge of depression, ability to identify symptoms of depression, ability to recognize the effects of negative stigmas toward military members and their families, and experiential activities with families and groups.
- One “Rock Solid Foundations” training was held to train credentialed child care provider educators on a program to train providers who live in military-rich communities in the state.
- In November 2011, all FCS Agents in the state received information on the Returning Soldier project, reaching out to military families in their counties and participated in dialogue about resources available to them for inclusion of military families in their programs.

Program Highlights

- In April 2012, Cooperative Extension personnel co-facilitated 5 Month of the Military Child events with partners reaching 1,919 military children, youth and parents across the state.
- Cooperative Extension personnel co-facilitated 5 Military Family Days with partners across the state, reaching 665 military youth and 296 military adults.
- The “Kentucky Extension Homemakers Support Military Families” program developed in Kentucky as part of the Nurturing Families Initiative was adapted at the request of DoD to become a national program called “*Communities Support Military Families.*”
- Three military family camps and 7 Military-Extension Adventure Camps for military parents and their teenage children were held in Kentucky with involvement from 4-H and FCS agents in partnership with numerous military and non-military people and organizations.

- A total of 17 informational briefings were held with 654 people participating to learn more about Cooperative Extension, programs and resources we offer, partnership opportunities, and ideas for supporting military kids and families in their communities with an average 9.4 on a 10-point scale for achievement of purpose.

Contribution Highlights

- Extension personnel helped to assemble 127 Hero Packs and disseminate 406 Hero Packs to military children and youth who have a parent deployed as a tangible expression of gratitude for the sacrifices made by military kids. Evaluation data revealed an average 9.7 on a 10-point scale for achievement of purpose on Hero Pack events.
- Kentucky Extension Homemaker's Association assisted in collecting and donating t-shirts for military family camps, items for Hero Packs and coupons for military families. They also assisted in sewing pillows, dolls and other items for military children.
- Over \$40,500 in contributions was received through donated these and other donated items and funds for use in FCS military family programming.

Partnership Highlights

- A National Guard Youth Camp that already existed has become a full and ongoing partnership between the National Guard and FCS and 4-H units.
- Collaborative work has begun between FCS and Fine Arts agents and the state Fathering Committee to expand support of and programming for military families.
- The work of the OMK State Team has begun to be replicated at a regional level in both District 5 and District 7 of the state. Also, Wayne County has formed an informal network similar in strategy and purpose to the OMK State Team. All of these networks serve to increase capacity for programming and support for military children and families that are geographically dispersed across the state.
- OMK Engaged 405 community volunteers who provided 1,115 hours of service to the OMK initiative.
- Live news spots were done in partnership with 2 different local news stations to promote programs being offered through FCS for military families.

Grants/Research:

- Four grants were awarded to FCS (Operation: Military Kids (OMK) , OMK Camp Initiative, Military-Extension Adventure Camp Grant, and Childcare and Youth Training and Technical Assistance Project).
- Four grants were submitted but not awarded (Family Readiness, OMK Local/Regional Support Network Supplemental grant, Air Force Father Engagement grant and CYFAR grant focused on military fathering).
- Evaluation data collected from 2011 Military-Extension Adventure Camp grant participants was analyzed, summarized, and developed into a journal article that is being submitted to the Journal of Experiential Education. Evaluation data revealed that participants found the time together with their children, interacting with fellow service members and their kids, sharing stories and having camaraderie were especially important and meaningful.

Managing in Tough Times (MITT)

According to news sources "Kentucky's recovery will be a slow climb" requiring continued support to ensure increased financial security for Kentucky families. MITT efforts have expanded the scope and reach of family financial management. A series of financial-related

disaster materials were assembled and localized to the state of Kentucky following the tornado outbreak in March 2012. 83,300 Kentuckians received the MITT MoneyWi\$e newsletter each month with timely topics such as back to school savings, holiday money management, talking to your children about finances, vacation on a budget, etc. Daily Facebook posts reach an average of 673 individuals. The MITT MoneyWi\$e website includes over 100 financial resource links, You Tube videos and was accessed from 26 countries, 45 states, and 115 cities by approximately 5000 visitors. Curriculum developed for presentation to general audiences included Building Healthy, Wealth Future; Small Steps to Health and Wealth (and online challenge); Building Money Management Skills, Bits and Tips. In addition, programming was presented to over 1325 participants regarding estate planning, preparing for retirement, student financial education and Kentucky Saves.

New or Unique Collaborations and/or Funding Sources:

Accessing USDA Specialty Crop funds through State Department of Agriculture to develop consumer educational materials.

Increasing Extension military outreach funding through family-focused High Adventure Camps and subcontracting for Military Child Care Training grant.

Partnerships with Health organizations to support Extension outreach.

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