

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

4-H NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY • COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

By

ANNETTE BUCKMAN

COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT FOR 4-H

Union County 4-H Youth Bring Home Top Honors at 2026 Kentucky State Fair Country Ham Competition

Union County 4-H youth once again made their mark at the 2026 Kentucky State Fair Country Ham Competition, bringing home numerous top-place finishes in the smoked ham, speech and overall divisions.

A total of 1,052 youth from across the Commonwealth competed in the Kentucky State Fair Country Ham Competition, representing 81 Kentucky counties. Of those counties, 63 entered non-smoked hams, while 18 counties participated in the smoked ham competition. Union County was proud to be among those 18 counties competing in the smoked division.

The Country Ham Project is a hands-on learning experience that challenges youth to learn about the curing and production of country ham while developing communication, responsibility and presentation skills. Union County participants represented their county exceptionally well at this year’s Kentucky State Fair.

Union County’s impressive number of top-place finishes is an accomplishment worth celebrating. Our 4-H members demonstrated their knowledge, dedication and commitment throughout the Country Ham Project and represented Union County with pride.

The outstanding results demonstrate the hard work of Union County 4-H members throughout the project. From caring for their hams throughout the curing and smoking process to preparing and delivering their speeches, participants gain valuable skills and experiences that extend far beyond the competition.

- 2009 Ham Division**
- Smoked Speech – 1st Place: Julian Beaven

- Smoked Overall – 1st Place: Julian Beaven
- 2012 Ham Division**
- Smoked Speech – 2nd Place: Allie Thomas
 - Smoked Overall – 3rd Place: Allie Thomas

- 2013 Ham Division**
- Smoked Hams
 - 1st Place – Millie Leonard
 - 3rd Place – Dallas Reynolds
 - Smoked Speech
 - 1st Place – Millie Leonard
 - 2nd Place – Finley Beaven
 - 3rd Place – Dallas Reynolds
 - Smoked Overall
 - 1st Place – Millie Leonard
 - 2nd Place – Finley Beaven
 - 3rd Place – Dallas Reynolds

- 2015 Ham Division**
- Smoked Hams
 - 3rd Place – Madison Hulette
 - 3rd Place – Joseph Leonard
 - Smoked Speech
 - 1st Place – Madison Hulette
 - § 2nd Place – Joseph Leonard
 - ¶ 3rd Place – London Brewer
 - Smoked Overall
 - 1st Place – Madison Hulette
 - 2nd Place – Joseph Leonard

- 2016 Ham Division**
- Smoked Hams
 - 1st Place – Emalyne Davis
 - 2nd Place – Cadee Nall
 - 2nd Place – Maclain Meacham
 - 2nd Place – Madelyn Reynolds
 - 3rd Place – Emersyn Hendrickson
 - Smoked Speech
 - o 1st Place – Maclain Meacham
 - o 2nd Place – Madelyn Reynolds
 - Smoked Overall
 - 1st Place – Maclain Meacham
 - 2nd Place – Madelyn Reynolds
 - Age Division Champion (based on callback scores): Maclain Meacham

Union County was proudly represented by the following 24 youth in the 2026 Kentucky State Fair Country Ham Competition:

Julian Beaven, Allie Thomas, Bentley Thomas, Trayce French, Charley Nall, Finley Beaven, Millie Leonard, Dallas Reynolds, Kevin Simpson, Hadley Hendrickson, Nora Meadors, London Brewer, Madison Hulette, Joseph Leonard, Sutton White, Cadee Nall, Emersyn Hendrickson, Nora Hendrickson, Fischer Blake, Alayah Hoover, Dawsyn French, Madelyn Reynolds, Emalyne Davis, and Maclain Meacham.

We are incredibly proud of all of our Union County participants! Every 4-H member who participated in the Country Ham Project deserves recognition for the time, effort and dedication they invested in their project. Whether they brought home an award or simply completed the project, each participant gained valuable experience and represented Union County 4-H with pride.

Congratulations to all of our Union County 4-H Country Ham participants on their accomplishments at the 2026 Kentucky State Fair!

Contact the Union County Cooperative Extension office to learn about the 4-H Country Ham Project and upcoming events and more.

The Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is an Equal Opportunity Organization with respect to education and employment and authorization to provide research, education information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

When Memories Lose Smile Appeal, Toss Them

By Becky Greenwell
bgreenw2@bellsouth.net

I realize the best advice you can give someone is to be in the moment. Enjoy your experiences while they are happening. Don’t dwell on the past and don’t worry about the future.

Great words to hand out and live by, but do I do that? Not really.

I’m a thinker of what could happen. I don’t feel I’m a negative person, although I’m accused of it a lot of times. I believe I’m a realistic person. I prefer to be prepared for what could possibly happen.

I take my umbrella in case it might rain. I always have a light jacket because as my youngest granddaughter so plainly put it, “The hotter it gets outside, the colder it gets inside.” I’m prepared for those colder indoor temperatures.

As far as the past I don’t dwell on water under the bridge. I recall, remember, and collect the memories. I put them away in my memory box and in my heart. I can pull them out anytime I want.

There are things I recall that I realize now were learning experiences and became something that formed me.

I have several things I have collected that helps me to remember the moments. I’m familiar with the quote that says collect moments not things. Sadly, as more years have passed from the original moment, I find I need the things to help me remember the moments.

Recently I found myself in one of those AAADD – Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder situations. That’s another name for scatter-brain actions. All I wanted to do was take a rainy day

and get caught up on paperwork. I went to the file drawer to pull out my folder of bills due. Then I saw the folder of papers to file. I took that folder and sorted through it and when I started filing, I came across the folder of memories to sort and file.

Memories to sort and file got me stuck all afternoon.

They weren’t even memories of special moments. There weren’t any photographs in there, only about three or four birthday cards from several years ago. There were several newspaper clippings of my grandchildren I was going to put into a scrapbook someday. I kept a few and tossed a few more.

The largest amount of stuff in the box were recipes cut out of magazines and newspapers. There were recipes from a time I must have had high hopes of making something delicious.

This is where the years between cutting them out and putting hands on them a second time that my attitude on recipes changed. I do not have my grandmother’s homemaking skills. I’m not a made from scratch cook.

I am an “almost home-cooked” cook. I would rather buy something already made, doctor it up, and call it homemade. Or use one of those easy four ingredient recipes. My latest one is a yellow cake mix, add two eggs, 5 mashed ripe bananas, throw in a few pecans, and bake. The best banana nut bread and my family loves them. Simple.

Looking through the recipes I thought, “What were you thinking?” These recipes had two columns of ingredients with some items I never even heard of

and I wondered why I cut them out in the first place. There was a recipe for Shoo Fly Pie and how to make your own cleaning supplies. Who makes Shoo Fly Pie anymore? Cleaning supplies must have been a time when I thought about going all natural. Well, laziness won over that era.

It made me think of how my collection of moments have changed over the years.

As a teenager I collected movie stubs, prom corsages, ribbons off special gifts, and valentines.

As a young mother I saved everything of my children from birth announcements, to locks of hair to baby teeth. I still have a treasure box of their artwork, report cards, and their special writing assignments.

Through all the years though I have pictures; oh, so many pictures.

These memories are things I’m saving for them. One day they are going to love going through all of the treasures in my memory box and recall the moments I savored.

As I have matured and my children and grandchildren have grown I am leaning more toward the collection of moments. Things are becoming less important, but I still need things to help me remember the moments.

I think I will keep my pictures, Christmas ornaments, the things in my memory boxes, and all that I hold in my heart for a little while longer.

Those recipes in the boxes are moving out because when I look at them they don’t make me smile. They have lost their smile appeal in the special memories category. Tossed.

Now about the stack of bills. Hmm, maybe tomorrow.

How To Reengage With A Hobby

Hobbies can have a profound impact on physical and mental health. The National Institutes of Health says hobbies can reduce stress, lower blood pressure and may prolong life. Hobbies also enhance cognitive function and can foster social interactions that help to combat loneliness.

In a busy world with many responsibilities, sometimes hobbies can fall by the wayside. Individuals who want to reengage with a hobby can try these tips.

- Start small. Initially devote a manageable amount of time to the hobby, such as 15 minutes a week. As interest grows, increase the amount of time you devote to the hobby.

- Create a dedicated space. Remove barriers to engaging with the hobby by having an ac-

cessible space to make it easier to begin.

- Gather all the supplies. Spend some time coordinating all of the materials that will be needed to engage with the hobby. Stocking supplies in a dedicated space makes it easier to

engage.

- Find a friend. Socialize with others in the community who also want to share the experience.

If the hobby doesn’t excite like it once did, then it’s acceptable to explore new ideas.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Union County Public Library District, established under KRS 173.710, provides library services to citizens in Union County, Kentucky. In accordance with Chapters 65 and 424 of the Kentucky Revised Statutes, the financial records for the Period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 may be viewed online at kydlgweb.ky.gov or at the Union County Public Library, 126 S. Morgan, Morganfield, Kentucky, during administrative office hours: Monday through Friday 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Inquiries should be made to the library director.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO BID

The City of Uniontown will be accepting bids for the resurfacing of some city streets. Contractors must be certified by the commonwealth for the duration of contract.

Bids will be accepted August 12th through August 21st, 2026 at Uniontown City Hall during normal business hours, Monday - Friday 8 a.m to 4 p.m. Bids will be opened on Monday, August 24th @ 6:00 p.m.

A full list and description of streets to be resurfaced is available by contacting City Hall @ 270-822-4277 or emailing ladonna.tapp@unioncountkyky.gov.

City has the right to reject any and all bids.

8/19c

POSITION AVAILABLE

The Union County Fiscal Court is accepting applications for a Full-Time Animal Control Officer.

This full-time position includes benefits, health insurance, retirement, and vacation.

Applications and a copy of the job description can be picked up and turned in at the Union County Judge/Executive’s Office, located at 100 W. Main St., Morganfield, KY 42437. They may be obtained via email at jill.hunley@unioncountkyky.gov or on our website at www.unioncountkyky.org. Applications will be accepted until September 11, 2026.

The Union County Fiscal Court is an Equal Opportunity Employer: All applicants are considered for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, or disability.

9/2c

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Union County Cooperative Extension District’s most recent audit and adopted budget can be viewed anytime on the Department for Local Government’s Public Portal website. If you would like to view our most recent financial statement, please visit us at our home office located at 1938 US HWY 60W, Morganfield, KY 42437, during our normal office hours of Monday-Friday 8AM-4:30PM. This ad was paid for by Union County Cooperative Extension Office dollars.
<http://kydlgweb.ky.gov/> Per KRS 65A.080(2)

1tc

PUBLIC NOTICE

INVITATION TO BID

Union County Water District is accepting sealed bids until Monday, August 31 at 4:00 P.M. for the following:

2026-2027 New Full Sized Work Truck
Crew Cab (4-Door)
Half Ton
Automatic Transmission
4-Wheel Drive
Cruise Control
Power Windows and Locks
Color: White

For questions regarding specifications, please contact Gary Sheffer at (270) 389-3868 or by e-mail at ucwdgarysheffer@yahoo.com.

Sealed bids may be dropped at

409 North Court Street
Morganfield, KY 42437

Or mailed to:

Union County Water District
c/o Sealed Bid
P.O. Box 146
Morganfield, KY 42437

8/26c