



Message from the Dean

Dr. Laura Stephenson has been named associate dean and director of the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service. Stephenson currently serves as assistant dean of extension and department chair of family and consumer sciences at the University of Tennessee. She will begin her appointment on Aug. 1.

A strong advocate for county-based programming, building capacity of interdisciplinary faculty teams and engagement of local, regional and state stakeholders, Dr. Stephenson has spent much of her career with Cooperative Extension in Kentucky. She brings a wealth of experience to the system, having served the state as an extension agent, district director, and assistant director for Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Field Programs. We are happy to have her back home.



Dr. Stephenson's appointment is one more step in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's ongoing efforts to provide the best leadership and fiscal management for a system that is indispensable to communities across Kentucky.

A transition team will be named soon to assist Dr. Stephenson with consideration and implementation of ongoing efforts at improving financial management, operations and county-centered needs assessments.

I appreciate UK leadership for understanding and supporting the important role Extension plays in our state and in the overall mission of the university. Considerations for budget reallocations for field programs will be the same for other university units going forward.

I offer a sincere thanks to Gary Palmer for his willingness to serve as the interim director during the past two years and to his administrative team. I would also like to thank the search committee and the other excellent candidates who offered to serve in this important position.

Thanks to everyone for your hard work and perseverance during this time of transition. We are a much stronger system ready for the next century of service to Kentucky and beyond. We are truly a powerhouse of ideas and solutions.

A public announcement will be going out later today.

One Day for UK

Thanks to generous donors, the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's Office of Philanthropy was able to exceed its goal for the first One Day for UK, a 24-hour day of giving held April 17.

- Total Raised by CAFE: \$44,755
- Total Donors to CAFE: 172

Awards/Honors

For the seventh consecutive year, **UK MANRRS** chapter is the National Chapter of the Year.

Mia Farrell, interim director of the college's Office of Diversity and UK MANRRS chapter advisor, was chosen the 2019-2020 National MANRRS president-elect.

UK Chellgren Center for Undergraduate Excellence Chellgren Professors:

- **Ryan Hargrove**, associate professor, Department of Landscape Architecture
- **Tammy Stephenson**, associate professor, Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition

School of Human Environmental Sciences Patricia Brantley Todd Awards of Excellence:

- **Jill Harris**, Todd County family and consumer sciences extension agent
- **Dawn Brewer**, assistant professor, Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition
- **Amy Kostelic**, associate extension professor, Department of Family Sciences

Alex Elswick, Family and Consumer Sciences extension substance use prevention and recovery specialist, spoke at the recent Rx Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit, sharing the stage with President Donald Trump.

Esther Fleming, Agricultural and Medical Biotechnology academic coordinator, received the NACADA-The Global Community for Academic Advising Region 3 Excellence in Advising Award.

In the news

- Christy Ramey, Simpson County family and consumer sciences extension agent, [UK Extension Helps Community Come Together to Make Sure Kids Have Beds](#)
 - Daniel Potter, Department of Entomology, [Building Bee-Responsive Landscape through Scientific Guidelines](#)
 - Will Snell, Department of Agricultural Economics, [The changing face of Kentucky farms. Latest census reveals shifts in \\$5.7B industry.](#)
 - Kenny Burdine, Jordan Shockley, Jonathan Shepherd, Alison Davis, Department of Agricultural Economics, [UK ag economists offer info for farmers dealing with financial challenges](#)
 - Agriculture and Natural Resources extension agents Kendal Bowman, Owen County; Samantha Anderson, Graves County; Curtis Dame, Hopkins County; Keenan Bishop, Franklin County, [Kentuckians Step Up to Help After Devastating Nebraska Floods](#)
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Spotlight

Marisa Aull

Assistant Director, Nutrition Education Program



We asked Marisa to share a little about her passions, her career path and what led her to us.

Tell us about your background and what led you to your current roles at UK?

I'm a native of Berea and I started my career with CAFE in 1999. Since then I've had the opportunity to work in several areas of CAFE. I was an FCS agent in Campbell, Fayette and Jessamine counties for a total of 11 years. I spent almost 5 years as an extension specialist with CEDIK and I've been with the Nutrition Education Program for 2 years. My educational background is in dietetics and human nutrition and I love bringing nutrition education and opportunities for lifelong learning to limited resource families and the Nutrition Education Program allows me the chance to do that, and to work with folks who also have that same goal.

What is your favorite thing about working in CAFE?

I love the opportunity to share the knowledge and resources the College has with communities across Kentucky. Being a part of a land grant institution allows us to truly serve our fellow Kentuckians. We are at the heart of communities in transition who rely on us for assistance and the number of collaborations and connections that occur because of CAFE and Cooperative Extension truly strengthens our state.

What is one thing about yourself that might surprise people?

Growing up I wanted to be a nurse, until I learned quickly the sight of another person's blood made me faint. After taking anatomy and physiology twice, purely because the lab made me queasy, I decided it wasn't the best profession for me. Thankfully I found the Nutrition and Dietetics program and the rest is history.

Calendar of Events

May 5-11

[National Small Business Week](#)

May 8

[KYSBDC Pacesetter Awards](#)

May 9-11

[Beef Processing Workshop](#)

May 12

Mother's Day

May 14

[Wheat Field Day](#)

May 18

Armed Forces Day

May 21

[Field Crop Scouting Clinic](#)

May 23

[Staff Appreciation Day](#)

May 27

Memorial Day

May 30

[Equine Farm and Facilities Expo](#)

May 30

[Fencing School](#)

May 30-June 1

[Pork Processing Workshop](#)

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