

UK Cooperative Extension Disaster Preparedness and Response



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An Increasing Need

Kentucky has experienced an increase in "billion-dollar" weather disasters

- 92 disasters since 1980
- 7 disasters in 2024

After the 2021 tornadoes and 2022 flooding, the University of Kentucky's Cooperative Extension Service looked systematically at how to improve response in the future



Extension in Action: December 2021 Tornado

Natural disaster response to

- Graves, Marshall, McCracken, Fulton, Lyon, Calloway, Daviess, Christian and McLean

Extension Agents, employees and volunteers provided

- Medical care
- Food
- Farming equipment

Building Resiliency

- Extension specialists developed toolkits for agents to prepare for future disasters



8016
Hours



24K+
Contacts

Extension in Action: July 2022 Flood

Natural disaster response to

- Breathitt, Knott, Leslie, Letcher and Perry

Extension Agents, employees, and volunteers

- Helped medical providers give 232 vaccines
- Transported nurses, physician assistants and donated medical supplies



100%

Extension employees
contributed to flood
relief work



6084

Hours Extension
offices contributed
to flood relief



101K+

Kentuckians
served by flood
outreach



\$123,200

Donated funds
given to flood
relief



6410

Hours contributed
by Extension
employees

Extension in Action: July 2022 Flood

Food, Shelter, and Supplies

- Perry County: 400 meals distributed
- Knott County: hosted cooking classes for families taking shelter in RVs
- Letcher County: 40 families took shelter in the Extension Office
- Leslie County: prepared meals for affected residents
- Knott County: collected and donated 150 buckets of cleaning supplies



Key Initiatives in Disaster Response

2023

Statewide Workshops

- Hosted in 6 locations
- 350 agents trained

2024

State Extension Disaster Preparedness Conference

- Hosted 20+ workshops in conjunction with Mississippi State University and the University of Florida Extension
- 120+ agents and administrators in attendance

Strike Team Workshops

- Composed of 40 trained county agents and staff
- Provides crucial on-the-ground support to communities impacted by disasters

Arts Disaster & Crisis Preparedness Conference

- Facilitated the exchange of best practices in emergency preparedness within the arts
- Several different locations: University of Kentucky's Lexington Campus and Boone County Extension Office

2025

Arts Disaster & Crisis Preparedness Conference

- Facilitated the exchange of best practices in emergency preparedness within the arts with the broader community
- McCracken County Extension Office

On the Ground

- Conducted agricultural damage assessments in partnership with the Farm Service Administration
- Harnessed the power of land-grant universities and worked alongside the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) to share research-based information quickly

Building Capacity

Student Strike Teams

- Partnership with UK Colleges of Public Health and Medicine

Undergraduate Course

- New course on disaster preparedness and recovery with the UK Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and the UK Colleges of Public Health, Medicine and Engineering

Continue working with the Kentucky Department of Public Health and Emergency Management

Annual trainings for UK Extension Strike Teams

Working in and with Your Community

- To learn more about the work of the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, visit: <https://extension.ca.uky.edu>