

**National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences
National Award Winners from KY at the 2024 Annual Session in
Tucson, AZ.**

National and regional award winners



From left: Debbie Messenger (Cumberland Co. FCS Agent), Angie York (Lyon Co. FCS Agent), Jill Harris (Todd Co. FCS Agent), Nichole Huff, (Extension Specialist for Family Finance), Christy Stearns (Clinton Co. FCS Agent), Mindy McCulley (Extension Specialist for Instructional Support), Laura Weddle (NEP Director), Alivia Faris (Scott Co. FCS Agent), Jessica Hunley (Madison Co. FCS Agent), Kelly May (Extension Associate for Family Finance), Kelsey Sebastian (Perry Co. FCS Agent), Lorie Adams (Knott Co. FCS Agent), and Shelley Meyer (Harrison Co. FCS Agent).

Distinguished Service Award

Whitney Morrow – Carter County



Debbie Messenger – Cumberland County

Debbie Shepherd – Wayne County

The DSA is the highest honor awarded by NEAFCS in recognition of outstanding leadership, programming, and personal & professional growth.

Continued Excellence Award



Christy Stearns – Clinton County

The Continued Excellence Award recognized active involvement in professional improvement programs, promotion of professional development, and leadership.

1st Place – Marketing Package



Mindy McCulley, Courtney Luecking, Katherine, Jury

The Marketing Package Award recognizes an outstanding marketing package promoting a class, program, or pertinent Family and Consumer Sciences issue. This award was granted for the “Eating Over the Rainbow – Fruit and Vegetable A Day Challenge” encouraging families with young children to serve more fruits and vegetables daily in an effort to improve consumption rates for children under five years through marketing messages created for and by children of the target group.

This program also received 1st place in the Southern Region.

2nd Place- Educational Curriculum Package

Kelly May

The Educational Curriculum Package recognizes excellence in curriculum development. This award was granted for the “Protect Your Life from Scams and Frauds” program intended to raise fraud awareness in order to reduce the likelihood that participants will fall victim to scams.

This curriculum also received 2nd place in the Southern Region.

2nd Place – Excellence in Teamwork

Whitney Morrow, Rebecca Konopka, Rebecca Hayes, Erin Barker, Nikki Calhoun, Alice Perry

The Excellence in Teamwork Award recognizes outstanding FCS programming presented by a multi-disciplinary team. This award was granted for the “Make & Take” program, a joint effort presented by all Carter County Extension Agents empowering youth and adults to learn valuable skills, embrace teamwork, and enhance creativity through hands-on workshops.

This program also received 1st place in the Southern Region.

2nd Place – Family Health and Wellness Award

Kate Thompson, Kenna Knight, Elizabeth Evans, Chelsea Young, Laura Weddle, Julie Marfell

The Family Health and Wellness Award recognizes innovative programs that promote and improve the health and wellness of families including but not limited to nutrition, fitness, family meals, meal planning, time or stress management, and healthy lifestyle. This team received this award for the BARN program and Dinner Theater.

This team also received 2nd place in the Southern Region.

3rd Place- Program Excellence through Research Award



Nichole Huff, Heather Norman-Burgdorf, Mindy McCulley

The Program Excellence through Research Award recognizes members as users of research, emphasizing the use of research results to improve existing programs or to develop new programs. This research explored the use of Mentimeter as a teaching tool to educate and engage Extension audiences through two iterations of the Big Blue Book Club offered by UK FCS Extension.

This research also received the Southern Region 1st place award.

3rd Place- Social Media Education Award

LaToya Drake

The Social Media Education Award recognizes innovative social media education efforts. This award was granted for promotion of “Plate it Up! Kentucky Proud” via Facebook and Instagram, reaching thousands monthly with local eating messaging. Collaborating with Extension Services, we share recipes and preparation tips that support small farmers in Kentucky. These efforts also received the Southern Region 2nd Place award.

3rd Place- Extension Disaster Education Award



Lorie Adams, Kelsey Sebastian, Kayla Watts

This award recognizes innovative education programs and outreach efforts that help individuals, families or communities become more resilient and decrease the impact of natural or human made disasters. This award was granted for the “Canning a Disaster” program which helped families safely replenish food and prepare for future disasters after historic flooding affecting 8,900 households in the region caused preserved and stored food supplies to be lost. This team also received the Southern Region 2nd Place Award.

3rd Place- Innovation in Programming Award

Elizabeth Evans, Kate Thompson, Kenna Knight, Chelsea Young, Laura Weddle, Julie Marfell

The Innovation in Programming Award recognizes innovation and accomplishment in the design and implementation of an FCS program. This team was granted this award for “The BARN program and Dinner Theater”, to raise awareness and improve mental health and well-being in their community. This program also received the 2nd place Southern Region award.

3rd Place- Communications Award– Educational Publication



Jill Harris, Angie York, and Cecelia Hostilo

The Communications Awards encourage excellence in communication in six categories including, educational publications, education technology, newsletters, radio/podcast, television/video and written media. This award was granted for “Charcuterie Boards 101,” a publication with a strong emphasis on food safety developed by the Agent team because of the popularity of charcuterie boards to combat the misinformation often shared through social media and influencers. This publication also received 2nd place in the Southern Region.