

# Report to the People Marshall County 2022

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## County Facts

From the time of its settlement until the 1930s, Marshall County was developed primarily for agriculture. In the 1940s, the Tennessee Valley Authority created Kentucky Lake as part of its flood control and rural electrification efforts. The creation of the lake established tourism as a major part of the county's economy, and lakeshore resorts were developed to encourage sport fishing and leisure boating. Today over \$100 Million dollars is spent on travel and tourism yearly, and farming still utilizes 44% of the county's land.

Sources: Marshall County Chamber of Commerce and USDA's 2017 Census of Ag.



## Farmers Look to Extension for Tornado Relief

Following the devastating tornado in Marshall County, Nikki Rhein, Marshall County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources, had the privilege of assisting with tornado relief efforts. By simply making herself available to the cause, she was blessed with the opportunity to help funnel donations and assistance to the farmers of her county. Throughout this process, she was able to help locate countless "work crews" who donated their time with cleanup and fencing efforts, as well as, helped allocate over \$90,000 worth of agriculture materials to the community.

After 7 months of long nights, heartbreaking conversations and back breaking work moving donations, Nikki noticed her farmers started to show improvement. When asked what their needs were, they responded with answers like, "I actually need nothing" and "I'm finally in a good place." Nikki is thankful that her contributions helped lead the "farmer victims" to a place where they feel more like farmers and less like tornado victims.



The aftermath of a Marshall County farm following the devastating tornado. Photo by Zoey Ramsey



Truckloads of agriculture donations awaiting distribution at the Extension Office.

Photo by Tami Widelksi



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## The Magic of Thriving in 4-H

The 4-H Thriving Model is the science-grounded in practice describing the “magic” of 4-H. The 4-H Thrive Model Long-Term Outcomes include academic or vocational success (Head); civic engagement (Heart), employability and economic stability (Hands), and happiness and wellbeing (Health). Marshall County 4-H alum expressed “In Their Own Words” how 4-H has impacted his life..

*4-H helped guide me down a path towards success in my personal life and career. Told about the fun activities and friends I'd meet at 4-H Camp, and WOW! I joined 4-H later than most, only coming to 4-H Camp for a week each summer. But I soon realized I had met many of my closest friends through 4-H and decided to listen to my 4-H Agent's requests to become more involved as a Counselor, 4-H Club Meetings, and Issues Conference.*

*I can attribute much of my success in life to 4-H... I took my first rocket class at camp making water bottle rockets. Fast forward to my current career as an Aerospace Engineer at SpaceX, building rockets, spacecraft, and satellites to help send NASA astronauts to the International Space Station.*

This Marshall County 4-H Alum credits Marshall County 4-H Youth Development for the positive impact on his life.



SpaceX employees  
at the Starship Launch Site in  
Boca Chica, Texas.  
Photo by Austin Mitchell



Super Star Chef Campers  
practice measuring skills.  
Photo by Vicki Wynn

## Super Star Chef Cooking Camp Teaches Healthy Habits to Kids

The State of Obesity 2020 data indicates the rate for Kentucky children ages 10-17 is 23.8%. This places Kentucky highest in the nation for childhood obesity in this age group. Recent research indicates teaching cooking skills to children encourages healthier food choices and can lower obesity rates. The Marshall County Family Consumer Sciences agent conducted Super Star Chef Cooking Camp, a three-day camp for students ages 9-12 that is designed to teach kitchen safety, food safety, nutrition concepts, and physical activity. In addition, students practiced food preparation skills with supervision.

100% of participating students agreed they could identify healthy foods and 94% stated they plan to be more physically active. One parent said, “Our daughter couldn't wait to prepare veggie egg scramble for dinner.” Another said her twins enjoy planning family meals and making a shopping list for food items to make the Super Star Chef recipes. They also plan to visit the farmer's market to incorporate local produce.