

Metcalfe County Extension Newsletter

Serving All Kentuckians!

Cooperative
Extension Service
Metcalfe County
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February – March 2025



This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of our dearly departed leader, Mrs. Lucy Belle Forbes. Lucy served as the Extension Agent for Home Economics/Family and Consumer Sciences in Metcalfe County from August 1960 – August 2005. Lucy departed this life in peace, on January 19, 2025. *Lynn*

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

“Where we love is home – home that our feet may leave, but not our hearts.”
Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.

February – March 2025 Calendar:

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2025, March Homemaker Leader Training at the Metcalfe Co. Extension office **at 10:30 a.m.** for Club lesson leaders and any mailbox members who would like to attend, the subject is Letting Go of Junk.

Thursday February 20, 2025, MCA Homemaker 2025 Area Annual Day planning committee meeting at 1:00 p.m. at the Logan Co. Extension office. Lynn attends with Alica Beasley, Metcalfe CO. Homemaker council President.

Thursday March 6, 2025, Metcalfe Co. Homemakers Council meeting at the Metcalfe Co. Extension office **at 1:00 p.m.** All Homemaker Club Presidents and County Council Officers Chairs and Lynn, attend.

Thursday March 27, 2025, April Homemaker Leader training at the Metcalfe County Extension office **at 10:30 a.m.** for Club lesson leaders and any mailbox member who would like to attend, the subject is House Plant Propagation and Exchange.

Homemakers please make your voice heard -- Your input is needed! **If you did not complete a lesson ballot at your January or February Homemaker club meeting, please complete and turn in, to Extension office the enclosed 2025/26 leader lesson ballot.**

See enclosed 2025/26 Homemaker Leader Training Lesson Ballot. Please select the top 10 lesson ideas that you prefer on this ballot and turn them in by or before February 21:

- Fax to Lynn at (270- 432 – 5087) **or**
- Scan and e-mail to Lynn at lynn.blankenship@uky.edu **or**
- Mail/hand deliver to Lynn at the Extension office at P.O. Box 55 – 422 East Street, Edmonton, KY 42129. Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.



To ALL Metcalfe County Homemaker Members who help support the Branstetter-Huffman 4 – H and Youth Development Service **Project Patriot**, during Fall 2024, with your donations of cash or items needed for the Christmas packages sent to local soldiers serving overseas during the Holidays. See the insert from Linda Branstetter for detailed information about project outcomes.

METCALFE COUNTY FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES EXTENSION AND HOMEMAKERS HISTORY: By Kelly Saderholm, Metcalfe Co. Historic Society as related to her by Lucy B. Forbes, retired Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent, for Metcalfe County. Revised 2025 by Lynn A. Blankenship.

The First Homemaker Club in Metcalfe County formed in Summer Shade and received its charter on November 20, 1947. Other clubs soon followed at Edmonton, South Summer Shade, Sulphur Well, Craile Hope, Center, Wisdom, Curtis, Knob Lick, West Summer Shade, Edmonton Twilight, Mell, Pleasant Grove, Savoyard, Working Women, Town and Country, Seven Up, White Oak, Alaround, Bristle and Pioneer. Of these clubs, the Edmonton, Town and Country, Seven Up and a member-at-large group are still active.

The Metcalfe County Homemakers chartered by the Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association (founded in 1932) has as its focus, to meet the changing needs of people through the informational and educational services of the University of Kentucky, College of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service. In 1947, Metcalfe County became the 96th county to organize in Kentucky.

Notes from the minutes of the first annual meeting of the Metcalfe County Homemakers held August 18th, 1948, at the Old Edmonton School Building, include the notation: "Homemakers made \$2.00 from sale of cookies for their Treasurer. There were seven clubs represented with 87 members present. Mrs. Myrtle Weldon, a state leader gave a talk entitled, "Homemaking in the Airplane Age."

In the early days, Homemakers met to learn safer ways to preserve foods, gardening, quilting, newer sewing techniques, refinishing furniture, chair bottoming, laundry techniques especially the with the new electric irons of the day. Later there was growing interest in home-decorating, use of color in the home, making and decorating home accessories such as drapes, pillows, picture frames and wall hangings.

Currently, Homemakers place a high value on community service and volunteer countless hours in service to their communities. The community gardens at the historic courthouse square in Edmonton and at the Sulphur Well community park were designed and are maintained by the Edmonton and Sulphur Well Homemakers clubs.

As for the modern educational component of this organization, food and Nutrition lessons continue to be a high priority in Homemakers' meeting. Some popular topics include feeding family's healthy food, safe food preparation and wise use in spending the food dollar. Other topics that have remained popular are management and wise investment of money, family budgets, relationships with families and others, wise use of time and energy, health and wellbeing issues, and childcare. In recent years, Arts and Crafts and other hands – on activities, have been of high interest to Homemakers.

The influence of the Homemakers Clubs has expanded beyond the homes of individual Homemakers and into their surrounding communities. Not only are Homemakers using their skills in their homes as mothers and caregivers, but they are now using their leadership and other skills in the workplace as teachers, merchants, lawyers, managers and many other positions.

COUNTY EXTENSION HOME ECONOMICS
(FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES)
EXTENSION AGENTS FOR METCALFE
COUNTY:

Ethel Mae Paschall
November 1947 - October 1957

Dorothy Morton
March 1959 - April 1960

Lucy Belle Forbes
August 1960 - August 2005

Lynn Avery Blankenship
December 2005 – present

Mrs. Lucy Belle Forrester.

Born January 2, 1935 - Departed January 19, 2025.

Lucy joined the Edmonton Homemakers Club immediately after her retirement in August 2005, eventually assuming the officer role of club Treasurer. Lucy served for many years on the County Homemaker Council, in the role of Leadership Development Chair.



Lucy with Katherine Miller, Laverne Watson, Patsy Sims and other Edmonton Homemaker Club members decorating the Community Garden on the square for the Christmas and Winter Holidays



Lucy at the International night Jamaica Program with Jackie Brown, Sandra Harris, Teresa Jones, Barb and Connie Avery



Lucy planning for the 1st county Homemakers group quilt project at the 2008 annual Bean Soup Lunch fundraiser with Mary Shive, Sue Atwell, Patsy Sims, Sandra Harris (MFHG) and Mavis Jeffries (MFHG).



Lucy working on one of the earlier Homemaker Fundraiser quilts with volunteers: Connie Jeffries, Diane Stayte, Bonnie Froggett, Ann Jones and Colette VonTassen.





Lucy volunteering @ Extension office for the 2007 Metcalfe Co. Homemaker Annual meeting.



Lucy presents gift exchange with Sue Atwell, at the 2008 County Homemakers Christmas meeting.



Lucy serving cake to Youth during an educational program.



Mrs. Lucy Belle Forbes, leading at a 2011 County Homemakers event.

Thank you Lucy, for Teaching and Leading us for so many of your years. You will be forever cherished.

Sincerely,
Lynn A. Blankenship, Metcalfe County
Extension Agent for Family and Consumer
Sciences Education