

## Extension Notes

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AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

**Rebecca Konopka**  
Carter County Extension Office

### *Extension Groups Hike the Depths of New River Gorge*

Calling all outdoor enthusiasts! Members of the Carter County Hike & Learn group, along with the PENCO Hikers from Pendleton County, recently embarked on a breathtaking journey into the heart of New River Gorge National Park and Preserve. This trip, designed to promote health, camaraderie, and appreciation for the natural world, brought together residents from across the region for an unforgettable experience.

While completing approximately 8 miles of trails participants were greeted by the awe-inspiring vista of the New River snaking through deep chasms and lush forests. The trip included visits to the Sandstone & Canyon Rim Visitor Centers where hikers were able to see views of the New River Gorge Bridge, the largest steel span in the western hemisphere. Additional activities included a scenic drive into the gorge along the Fayette Station Road which is a spur of the Coal Heritage Trail and the exploration of the historic railroad town of Thurmond. Hikers also discovered a variety of waterfalls along the West Virginia Waterfall Trail and earned the waterfall wanderer sticker.

Laughter and lively conversation filled the air as hikers shared stories and bonded over their shared love for the outdoors. Throughout the trip, Extension Service agents were on hand to provide natural resource information. The crisp mountain air provided a picturesque backdrop for these educational discussions.

With summer fastly approaching, this trip serves as a timely reminder of the countless treasures to be found in natural landscapes. So, lace up your hiking boots, grab your camera, and get ready to explore the wonders that await! The Extension Office is thrilled to announce their next Hike & Learn adventure! On April 5th, they'll be setting off to explore the beauty of Laurel Gorge Cultural Heritage. Renowned for its beautiful spring wildflowers, Laurel Gorge promises a unique hiking experience for all levels. Whether you're a seasoned hiker or just getting started, this is a chance to connect with nature and discover the hidden gems of Kentucky alongside friendly faces. Camilla Haney will be our trail guide.

The 2024 Hike & Learn series will held on the first Friday of the month. For further information about Hike & Learn contact the Carter County Extension Office at 474-6686. Lace up your boots, pack your sense of adventure, and join us for another unforgettable exploration! Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expressions, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.



Carter County participants Jonathan Sisson, Nancy Bradford-Sisson and Becky Crum pose in an old growth forest along the Burnwood Trail at New River Gorge National Park.

**Other Upcoming Events:**

- **Small Ruminant Quality Assurance** – Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM – Call 474-6686 to register.
- **Private Pesticide Applicator Training** – Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 PM – Call 474-6686 to register.
- **Little Sandy Beekeepers Meeting** – Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 PM- Guest Speaker: Nathan Alexander, Big Sandy River Watershed Coordinator
- **Farmer’s Market Training & Meeting** – Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM
- **Extension District Board Meeting** – Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at