



Community Voices



"Ashley Clark, 4-H Extension agent, visits with grades K-5 monthly and provides innovative and fun activities linked to agriculture, STEM, and science. Activities engage students in learning and teamwork. Our teachers and students look forward to her visits and are pleased with the educational opportunities she presents to the classroom."

Addrienne Robinson

Assistant Principal
Castlewood Elementary School

2,600

Social media followers

Partners for Solutions



"Extension is responsible for assessing agricultural damage after natural disasters. As Hurricane Helene traveled through Southwest Virginia, Russell County received significant rainfall and wind. Using farm visits, phone interviews, and online surveys, agricultural damage was estimated at \$7.8 million. This estimate helped secure federal funding for cleanup and repair."

Scott Jessee

Agent



Extension Agent Kristen Gibson teaches young people how to make homemade bread.

Sharing Knowledge

To make informed decisions that lead to healthier development, stronger relationships, and greater overall well-being, young people need activities that provide practical, accurate, and unbiased information. Extension's Family and Consumer Sciences program has been sharing life skills training with students in the after-school program at Castlewood High School.

Focusing on real-life situations, students have taken a step toward self-reliance by learning to dehydrate and can food. Students dehydrated fruit to make "fruit leather," and they preserved strawberries by making and canning jam. They also perfected the art of making bread.

To prepare students for future independence, Extension shared lessons to help them better understand the importance of using budgets to make sound financial decisions. By providing young people with opportunities for hands-on and experiential learning, they will be better equipped to handle and solve future problems.

Russell County

Funding by Source



42% State

14% Local

23% Federal

10% Grants

11% Other

Total Funding: \$600,202

\$6.23

return on investment
for every dollar
invested by **Russell
County**

\$119,951

Value of extension
volunteer hours in
Russell County

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visit www.cals.vt.edu/make-a-gift.