

# FFA celebrates All in for Agriculture Education Week

By ANNA WARE  
GC FFA REPORTER

On March 17, Green County FFA was able to participate in All in for Agriculture Education Week by hosting a Farmer Appreciation Breakfast thanks to a grant from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Raising Hope Foundation. GC FFA officers and members prepared the breakfast which was held at the Green County Extension Office. Mr. Warren Beeler, Deputy Commissioner for the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, was the keynote speaker and emphasized the amazing opportunities for U.S. Agriculture. Mrs. Kesha Bagby's Phlebotomy class from the Green Co. ATC provided free health checks for attendees. Clinton Corner, the 2025-26 KY FFA Lake Cumberland Region State Vice President, also attended the breakfast and provided words of encouragement and thanks to local agriculture.

Later in the afternoon, GC FFA hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new greenhouse at Green County High School.



Photo submitted

Green County FFA hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new greenhouse at Green County High School during All in for Agriculture Education Week. Jordan Turner, Ben Davenport, James Bonta, Brandon Reed, Marcy Goff, Will Hodges, and Samantha Gaddie were all present for the ribbon cutting of the new greenhouse at Green County High School.

house at Green County High School. Mr. James Bonta provided words of thanks to the Green County Board of Education and KY Office of Ag Policy for their

support and funding toward the completion of the greenhouse. Mr. Brandon Reed also spoke on the importance of providing agricultural education

and opportunities for multiple generations that will bring real-life and hands-on experience for generations to come. Bonta also recognized his agricultural

classes that assisted with various aspects of the greenhouse, such as leveling gravel, assembling tables, and planting seeds and seedlings. The greenhouse

will be open to the public later this April. Big things are happening for GC FFA and we appreciate the continued support of our agricultural community.

## Smart approaches to controlling wildlife on the farm



**Kara Back**  
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Wildlife is integral to Kentucky's landscape, and farms inevitably share space with a diverse range of animals. Rather than attempting to eliminate wildlife — an unrealistic and counterproductive goal — effective on-farm wildlife management can work to reduce conflicts and encourage natural behaviors that keep wildlife and people safely separated. Consider these strategies:

- Define the problem — and the likely culprit.
- Is the interaction causing harm or simply inconvenience? Economic loss, crop damage, or threats to safety clearly require intervention, while other encounters — like a harmless snake sighting — may only require tolerance.
- Identifying the species responsible for

damage is not always simple. Clues such as habitat type, height of tree damage, bite patterns, tracks, and scat can narrow the possibilities. Trail cameras, field guides, and expert assistance can also provide confirmation.

**Modify the habitat.** Small changes can make the environment less inviting and discourage wildlife from lingering near crops, buildings, and livestock areas. Modifications can include:

- Reducing cover by mowing or clearing vegetation
- Removing attractants such as fallen fruit, unsecured feed, or debris
- Eliminating denning or nesting sites such as hollow trees or woodpiles
- Use deterrents strategically.
- Deterrents can provide short-term protection. Visual tools like decoys or scare devices often work best when rotated frequently so animals do not become accustomed to them. Try to introduce them right before wildlife

pressure increases, such as just before fruit ripens or during calving season.

Deterrents like lasers or noise-making devices can help in certain scenarios but rarely offer permanent relief. For any deterrent, timing, and variety matter more than the device itself.

Invest in fencing and enclosures.

Fencing is one of the most reliable long-term options for reducing wildlife damage, especially around high-value crops, and livestock. Though they require higher upfront costs, well-designed enclosures reduce the need for repeated deterrents.

Deer generally require structures at least eight feet tall, but an offset fence disrupts their depth perception. Electrified fences are more appropriate for wildlife that climb or dig.

Enclosures also work best when installed proactively before animals get accustomed to feeding or traveling in the protected area.

Trap and hunt to reduce populations.

Trapping and hunting can be effective, especially for species like raccoons and deer. Kentucky law (KRS 150.170) allows landowners to protect their property from most wildlife, except those protected under federal law (bats and migratory birds). When animals are taken, landowners must notify a conser-

vation officer to obtain a confirmation number and may only keep consumable meat.

Hunting also supports long-term deer management and can provide supplemental income through leased access. Effective population control requires harvesting does, and landowners should monitor harvest out-

comes. Plan for long-term management. There is no one-time, permanent fix. Effective management requires persistence and the combination of multiple strategies.

Source: Matt Springer, Associate Extension Professor of Wildlife Management



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