In 1912 the General Assembly made an annual appropriation of $50,000.00 to the Experiment Station stipulating that a portion of the fund be devoted to Extension work. Frank Montgomery and C. A. Mahan were appointed during this year as the first county agents. County Extension work in Home Economics started in 1913 with Helen E. Woolcott as State Agent. County workers were employed for the summer months to give instruction in canning. After the passage of the Smith-Lever Act the personnel and volume of activities increased rapidly. Brenda D. Elam, Eila C. Carson, and Clara L. Vogel were the first home demonstration agents employed and assigned to counties in Kentucky, February 1, 1914.

Club work for boys and girls began in 1909 in a few counties in Kentucky. The members were nearly all boys who engaged in growing corn. By 1911 pig clubs were undertaken and by 1912 poultry and canning clubs were organized.

When the United States entered World War I in April 1917, many new demands were made upon extension workers. The most urgent demand was that the Extension Service devise means for increasing and conserving the food supply. The expansion brought about during the war gave impetus to the growth and development of extension work in Kentucky and in the nation.

Extension in Rowan County began in 1928 when Mr. H. A. Haggan who was the first head of the agriculture department of Morehead State University took a committee before the fiscal court to get an
appropriation for a County Extension Agent. He encountered opposition from some court members one saying that he had worn out two farms in his lifetime and did not need any help from a county agent. Finally, however, he was able to persuade the court to put up travel money for an extension agent. This was in 1928. Mr. Charles Goff was hired through the state Extension Office at the College of Agriculture in Lexington. Mr. Goff worked through some of the leading farmers in the county at that time, among who were: Leland Hall, Boston Logan and others. Mr. Logan who was on the original committee told the court at one meeting that the tax he paid for Extension had returned to him ten times over, increased crop yields that he was able to make. For the first several years it was a fight every year to get the fiscal court to support Extension. Some of the folks who first tried the recommended practices were Mr. Logan, who had the first pure bred dairy bull, a registered jersey. Leland Hall who tried the first Korean Lespedeza and hybrid seed corn. Mr. Goff who was the first agent mentioned above put out many demonstrations on cooperators farms to show them what improved practices would do.

Mr. Haggan felt that there was a need for a person to help the ladies to work with girls in a 4-H Club program and in 1944 he took a committee to talk to the court about securing a Home Demonstration Agent. After much effort they secured the appropriation and Miss Lorian Harris was hired to work with the women in Home Demonstration work. She did not stay long and was followed by Mrs. Evelyn Sinclair.

One of Extension's good supporters often tells the following story: When the committee was getting ready to get the appropriation approved for hiring her, it was known that one member of the fiscal court was
opposed to it. The day before court met, he called up the magistrate and told him he wanted to take him on a trip. He got a gallon of moonshine, picked the magistrate up at his house and he and the magistrate were gone for two days or until the liquor ran out. He told Mrs. Sinclair she was the biggest headache he ever had.

One of Extensions annual events started in 1944. It started out as a Farm and City Work Day and later became known as Farm and Home Field Day. All agencies cooperated and during the first early events, the event consisted of picking one farm in the county and everyone would gather at this farm for a work day. This consisted of putting up hay, mending fence and whatever other jobs that might need to be done. Not only farmers participated but also businessmen came out to work.

In 1946 the program was changed somewhat and a farm was chosen and crop demonstrations were set up and visitors (including the whole family) gathered at the farm, bringing with them food for potluck lunch. Specialist from Lexington were invited to discuss those demonstrations that were seen. Crowds of up to 400-600 were not uncommon. Some years ago the Morehead Tobacco Warehouse started paying for the meal with homemaker clubs doing the cooking and serving. The Field Day in recent years has been widened to include 4-H Club demonstrations and Homemaker Demonstrations.

In 1956 Extension figured Rowan County was in need of an additional cash crop and since some folks had been doing well in producing strawberries it was decided to promote strawberries as a cash enterprise.

W. Magill, Extension Strawberry Specialist from Lexington worked with the leaders and a cooperative was organized. Rowan County farmers planted 125 acres of strawberries that year. The merchants in Morehead wanted to help promote the strawberry project and to do so they agreed to each donate a $1.00 worth of merchandise, and coupon book was made
worth $56.00 each and given to each who put out an acre of berries. This amount covered the cost of the farmer's strawberry plants.

With the planting of the strawberry acreage and the increased 4-H Club program, Extension leaders thought that there was need for a 4-H Club Agent in the County. With this in mind, a committee went before the court and secured the appropriation for a 4-H Club Agent.

4-H Agents that have served in the county are:
- Ralph Wade
- John Trout
- Ronnie Hislope
- Bob Wolfe
- Paul Mills

Home Demonstration Agents that have served in Rowan County were:
- Lorain Harris
- Evelyn Sinclair
- Mary Frances Wade
- Dixie Higgins
- Janet Boyd
- Marjorie Gabbard
- Mildred Mitchell
- Karen Hill
- Jan Rimmel (18 mo. to N.C. left 3/1/78)
Agricultural Agents starting with Mr. Charles Goff - 1928

Kermit Mills few month then service
Dan Brame
and myself - Resor 1946

Secretaries during that period have been:
Mrs. Edith Cline - now housewife in Morehead
Mrs. Lucille Dehart - employed by County Court Clerks Office
Mrs. Harvey Tackett - Housewife
Mrs. W.G. Bailey - Teacher
Miss Faye McManus - Secretary for legal service in Lexington
Mrs. Patti (Egan) Sibert - housewife in Batavia Ohio
Ms. Janet Combs - present secretary

In 1957 the state decided to eliminate brucellosis in Rowan County. With the help of many Extension leaders we became the first county in the state to become brucellosis free and received a plaque for the accomplishment.

In the late forties electricity had not become available to Rural Rowan County. One of the foremost projects that Extension worked on was the attempt to try to get REA based in Flemingsburg to serve the northern part of the county and to get the West Liberty office of REA to serve the southern section. Two or three times a month the leaders would go with me to talk to the REA officials about securing the service. Most of the communities had one and two room schools then and in order to hold night meetings, we had to take our own generator. The national forest service owned a portable generator and they let me use it for this purpose.
It wasn't any trouble to get a crowd when you went into a community
to hold a meeting, especially if they knew you were going to have
a film of some kind. Usually the school house was full. I guess
the first television seen in rural Rowan County was along about 1950. I
roomed with Earl Young here in Morehead and Earl was a ham radio
operator and he put together a TV set. This was the first one I had
ever seen and he told me he would be glad to go with me to a community
meeting and take the set some night. One night I had a meeting
scheduled for Poplar Grove school and Earl went with me. People
could hardly believe what they were seeing and they thoroughly enjoyed
it.

In 1932 the tobacco average yield was 400 pounds per acre. With
the development of disease resistant varieties, insect control and
increased fertilizer application this has been upped to 2400 pounds per
acre. Corn yields at that time were around 17½ bushels per acre.
The 1976 yield for Rowan County was 81.2 bushels per acre.

In 1932 it took 4-5 acres of pasture land to keep a cow. Today
we are doing it on 1½ acres.

These accomplishments have been brought about by development
of new strains of grasses and increased fertilizer and lime application.

In those days 1-2 hundred pounds per acre of fertilizer were
considered adequate. Today we are using 4-5 hundred pounds on grass
and up to a ton on tobacco and corn. Hybrid corn did much for the
increase in corn yields in the county as did improved varieties for
tobacco.
In 1946 marks the time Adrian Razor came to Rowan County as County Agent.

In 1947 the number of clubs more than doubled. This year the first county Rally Day with 140 leaders and members participating. This year Ruth Kidd won 2nd place in State Dress Revue and David Ramey was district garden champion.

In 1948 the 4-H Council was reorganized. $450.00 was raised to finance the 4-Club program.

Several 4-H Club activities were added to the program in 1950. Poplar Grove Club sold evergreens to a company in Louisville for Christmas decorations. A 4-H Tractor School was taught by Raymond Hall and Carl Ellington won the tractor contest. The county sponsored a cake sale and made $100.00 for 4-H Club work. Again the Farmers Club won the K.U. Award.

In 1951 about 300 attended the Rally Day. Twelve attended 4-H Week in Lexington. At the County Youth Fair $1,700.00 was won in prizes. Clark 4-H improved the cemetery. This year the Big Brushy Club won the KU Prize.

In 1954-55 enrollment went up to 500 in twenty clubs. 4-H members participated in about every event held in the state. Many entered contest and won prizes. Each year there were more entries.

In 1956 there were 19 clubs with 700 members and 1172 projects, such as sewing, cooking, canning, housekeeping, grooming, leadership, electricity, entomology, woodworking, strawberries, corn, forestry, tobacco, garden, swine, dairy, rabbits, beef, judging teams, training meetings.

4-H leadership is voluntary. Most of the advancement can be credited to local people and organizations who have given of the time and money to help boys and girls with their projects and activities.

Since 1946 4-H work moved faster because now there were two Extension Agents one for agriculture and one for Home Economics. An agent who devotes full time to 4-H was employed in 1955.

In 1967 Paul Mills came to Rowan County as County Agent responsible for the County 4-H Program. 4-H Club work (as of March 1978) has grown to thirty-one organized 4-H Clubs with a membership of 1000 plus. Working with the organize 4-H clubs and other 4-H activities and events are 141 volunteer leaders. These people give of their time, efforts and money to help make the 4-H program a program that meets the needs of a lot of youth in Rowan County.

Some of the 4-H programs that 4-H'ers are involved in that may be different from the past years are: American Private Business Enterprise program, Garden Sill window project, Mulligan Stew (nutritional program) for 5th grade level boys and girls—this program is conducted over educational TV; forestry beautification project-12000 white pine tree seedlings are set each year, 4-H achievement awards program in seven schools, county 4-H officer training meeting, 4-H educational tours, community pride program, 4-H Exchange program with 4-H'ers from other states, 4-H exhibits (including livestock) at county fair, 4-H leaders help with United Way Drive, 4-H Week University of Kentucky, 4-H project group meetings, Small Engine program.
4-H Speech and Demonstration program, 4-H Variety Show, bus trip to Kentucky State Fair for 4-H'ers, area 4-H achievement, area and county teen leadership program, 4-H Style Revue, County project tours, area 4-H Old-horse show, area 4-H TV variety Show, Kentucky fair Exhibits, Kentucky 4-H Youth Conference in Washington, D.C. -two 4-H'ers from each county take part each year, and 4-H camp. 4-H Camp attendance has increased over the past ten years from 13 members to 84 members attending camp the summer of 1977.

The 4-H Council budget has grown in the past ten years from $80.00 to $1,795.00 for the year 1977-78.

Last time 5 on bus next to parents Polly Day.

$2 involved with monthly meetings.

Exchange Oswego Co., N.Y.

Thanks to United way $1795 this yr.

Maintenance from power engines.