

Gilmer County Annual Report 2020

Putting Knowledge to Work!

The West Virginia University Extension Service works to provide solutions in your community through key programs and resources, including agriculture and natural resources; 4-H and youth development; food and nutrition; health and wellness; financial planning; and home gardening. These research-based programs and services are available to all Gilmer County residents thanks to the tremendous support of our community members, local organizations, volunteers and local partners, including the Board of Education and County Commission.

Highlights

- Provided more than 150 adults with timely agriculture and gardening education material.
- 260 elementary youths learned how to create a square-foot garden in the Gilmer County Elementary High Tunnel.
- 36 youths participated in virtual Energy Express six-week summer reading program. 72 youths were served in summer feeding program.
- More than \$49,000 in local economic impact from Youth Livestock Project Sales.
- 125 households participated in home gardening activities.

4-H/Youth Development

Activities:

Camping

- 55 youths participated in virtual 4-H Camp.
- Youths enjoyed activities focused on the Head, Heart, Hands, and Health.
- Young people had fun exploring STEM, healthy living and citizenship.
- Youths shared photos of their activities throughout the week and participated in three live Zoom sessions.
- 5 youths participated in statewide 4-H Camp, through the Best of State Camp Virtual Program.

Energy Express

- 36 youths participated in the virtual Energy Express summer reading program, with 25 youths participating more than 50% of the time.
- 72 youths participated in the summer meals feeding program.

Traditional 4-H Programming and Clubs

- There are currently five active 4-H clubs in Gilmer County serving more than 85 youths. After a short hiatus, there is once again a club in Glenville, the Glenville Gators, with eight youths and three Cloverbuds enrolled.
- Youth participants completed 67 4-H projects with exhibits, including two non-livestock projects completed by two different youths.

Special Interest Programs

- 31 youths completed 67 projects (art, baking and talent) as part of the 4-H Round-Up.
- In scholarships, 4-H member participation was steady in 2020. An intermediate age group was added to allow for increased participation from 2019.
- 600 Gilmer County youths received "See them Sprout" growing kits as part of educational programing provided by Gilmer County Extension.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Youth Livestock (Both 4-H and FFA)

- 65 market and breeding livestock projects were completed by 24 youths.
- \$49,585 was grossed during the Gilmer County Youth Livestock Sale.
- \$3,585 of resale livestock was donated back to the Gilmer County Recreation Center.

Agriculture and Natural Resource Education

- 5 farm visits were conducted to assist with agriculture related problem solving, such as weed identification, pesticide recommendations and farm management.
- More than 100 phone calls were taken to assist farmers and homeowner with agriculture and natural resource related questions and problem solving.
- 15 farmers requested additional assistance in understanding their soil test results.

Gardening Programs & Education

- 11 FFA students and 8 adult volunteers assisted in building raised beds at the Gilmer County Elementary School High Tunnel.
- More than 80 households participated in the 2020 Grow This! Garden Challenge.
- 45 households participated in the Spring Berry and Vegetable Plant Group Order. In doing so, they diversified their gardens with perennial producing plants.
- 7 homesite visits were conducted to assist gardeners with pest identification, problem solving and recommendations.

Agriculture STEM Education

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- 260 elementary age youths participated in square-foot gardening with the school high tunnel. Pre-K to 1st grade, as well as fourth and fifth grade students.
- 3 third grade students hatched chicks in the classroom through a chick embryology course.
- 63 fourth graders learned about the difference particles that make up soils. Youths
 enjoyed hands-on activities, discovering the differences in sand, silt and clay, and how
 different ratios make up diverse soil types.

Families and Health

- Gilmer County maintained five Community Educational Outreach Services clubs serving 93 members. Those members recorded more than 1,000 hours of community service.
- 14 individuals participated in Healthy Cooking for the Heart course, which included supplemental food for four people to cook as part of the six classes. This class was sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph out of the Parkersburg area.

Community Development/Tourism/Economic Development

• Partnered with the Gilmer County Economic Development Association to assist with county-wide projects, including removal of dilapidated buildings, farmers market management and facility improvements, and broadband and wi-fi expansion grants.