

Preston 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 Preston 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

- Extension agent Bill Shockey successfully administered a two-year SARE Research & Education grant, Obtaining Preventative Veterinary Services in Underserved Areas, to:
 - Educate producers on the value of having a vet-client-patient relationship to keep animals healthy.
 - Provide producers with tools to attract veterinarian services to underserved areas.
- David Hartley served as the co-director of URLinked Best of State Camp and URLeadership, two statewide virtual camps engaged camper in service, leadership, health habit, and STEM activities.

4-H/Youth Development

4-H Virtual Programming

- 105 youths attended the virtual county 4-H camp and received a camp care package. All 4-H members who did not attend camp received summer fun packages.
- 179 youths completed 4-H projects for the virtual county project showcase.

Energy Express

- Youths participated in the Energy Express summer literacy program. AmeriCorps members helped distribute food at summer feeding site and provided more than 600 take-home science kits to county families.

Other Programs

- Four members were selected to attend the National 4-H Conference and Congress.
- Two 4-H'ers were selected as members of the State Horse Judging Team.
- The 2020–2021 4-H enrollment was completed via a new online system called ZSuites.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

- More than 130 junior exhibitors sold 252 heads of livestock at the Preston County Livestock Association Youth Livestock Sale, totaling \$374,950.
- A service program was coordinated and designed to improve and assess the reproductive efficiency of 35 bulls. 14 bulls (26%) were symptomatic and required a follow-up evaluation. Four bulls (11%) failed and required replacement.
- A farmer-initiated marketing coalition was supported and designed to increase local food consumption of institutional customers. Because of COVID restrictions total sales were restricted to \$7,832 compared to more than \$25,000 in 2019, as local institutional customers such as Preston County Schools and West Virginia National Guard Mountaineer Challenge Academy purchased fewer ingredients.
- Master Gardeners reported more than 1,000 volunteer and educational hours to county residents by providing civic organization education, public park design, school science education, public flower care and other activities.

Families and Health

- Launched 4-H Fun Family Challenges in October and encouraged families to be active and try challenges as a family.
- 42 Community Education Outreach Service members provided more than 3,000 hours of service to Preston County residents.
- Before the pandemic, 18 CEOS members attended a county lesson leaders training.