Roane County Annual Report 2018

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 Roane 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

- Roane County WVU Extension Service staff distributed a bi-monthly newsletter to keep the local stakeholders up to date on programming efforts and impacts, with a distribution of 825 electronic copies and 231 copies mailed to youths and adults throughout Roane County. There were 533 documented (signed in) visitors to the Roane County Extension office in 2018.

- 585 youths engaged in hands-on STEM activities involving robotics, rocketry, engineering, animal science and other STEM fields through programming implemented by AmeriCorps Summer Associate VISTAs. These youths increased in STEM content-related knowledge and gained an awareness of career possibilities in STEM fields.

- 140 Roane County 4-H members attended the 2018 Roane County 4-H Camp, and 24 Cloverbud 4-H’ers, ages 5 to 8, attended Cloverbud Day Camp.

- 152 Roane County third grade students increased their knowledge of a variety of agriculture-science fields through participation in the annual Roane County Agriculture Field Day. Roane County WVU Extension Service agents, 39 FFA members and 17 adult volunteers planned and implemented educational activities for the day.

- 359 youths and 131 adults increased their knowledge of livestock selection and care and other agriculture-science topics through participation in a series of five youth livestock workshops held in 2018. 132 youths participated in the 2018 Roane County 4-H and FFA Youth Livestock Program animal placement contest; 135 youths participated in the showmanship contest; and 130 youths sold a livestock project animal during the 2018 Roane County 4-H and FFA Youth Livestock Sale, generating $217,213 in sales.

- 341 Walton Elementary Middle School students and 191 Geary Elementary Middle School students participated in a Kids’ Mobile Market and food nutrition activities sponsored by Mountaineer Food Bank and WVU Extension Service.

4-H and Youth Development

*Traditional 4-H Programming and Clubs*
Roane County offered 10 community 4-H clubs, one junior leader 4-H club for youth enrolled in
ninth grade or higher, and four Cloverbud clubs.

231 youths were active members of a Roane County 4-H club.

Nine Roane County 4-H members completed the rigorous requirements to earn the West
Virginia 4-H pin, the highest county-level 4-H award a member can earn.

Three county 4-H youths were inducted into the West Virginia 4-H All Star organization, the
highest state-level 4-H award, in recognition of their outstanding record of service to the 4-H
program and other community organizations.

14 4-H club officers increased their knowledge of 4-H club officer duties and responsibilities
through participation in the 2018 4-H Club Officers’ Training School.

39 4-H members participated in presentation contests, public speaking competitions and other
events during the 2018 Roane County 4-H Round Up.

72 entries were submitted for the 2018 West Virginia 4-H Poster Contest, Photo Exhibition and
Writing Exhibition.

156 4-H project books, 100 record guides and 18 club officer books were completed by Roane
County 4-H youths. 137 4-H and Cloverbud members completed 4-H project books and exhibits
that were showcased during the 2018 Black Walnut Festival.

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generating $217,213 in sales.

75 4-H’ers, family members and leaders attended the 2018 Roane County 4-H Achievement
Banquet. 61 4-H youths and 13 adult volunteers were recognized with awards during the
banquet. 122 awards were presented to Roane County 4-H youths.

Camping

140 youths attended the 2018 Roane County 4-H Camp. The Roane County 4-H Leaders’
Association and the Roane County 4-H Foundation provided 29 scholarships totaling $2,320 to
youths attending county 4-H camp. Additionally, community clubs individually raised an
additional $4,416.50 to provide scholarships for club members attending county camp.

107 youths earned awards during the 2018 Roane County 4-H Camp with 27 youths receiving
full scholarships to attend the 2019 camp and four receiving full scholarships to attend state 4-H
camps.

24 Roane County youths attended the 2018 4-H Cloverbud Day Camp for children ages 5 to 8.

24 youths attended a state 4-H camp or event in 2018. The Roane County 4-H Leaders’
Association and Roane County 4-H Foundation provided $1,820 in 47 partial scholarships and
one full scholarship to assist 4-H members attending state 4-H camps and events.

Energy Express

35 youths in first through sixth grades participated in the 2018 Roane County Energy Express
program. All youth participants received six take-home books to add to their home libraries.

Eight older youths provided 365.5 hours of service and 14 adults provided 107.25 hours of
service as program volunteers.

1,600 meals were served to youths during the six-week program.
• The Energy Express site team collected and donated food and other supplies for the Roane County Helping Hand as part of their annual service project.

• Local stakeholders, including Roane County schools, the Rotary Club of Spencer, the Roane County 4-H Leaders’ Association and the Roane County Family Resource Network, contributed more than $5,700 in financial support to the Energy Express program.

**School-based Programs**

• 152 Roane County third grade students increased their knowledge of a variety of agriculture-science fields through participation in the annual Roane County Agriculture Field Day. Roane County WVU Extension Service agents, 39 FFA members and 17 adult volunteers planned and implemented educational activities for the day.

• 83 seventh grade students increased their knowledge of the composition of atoms, types of electricity, types of electrical currents and how electrical currents work through participation in a hands-on wearable circuitry activity planned and implemented by Roane County WVU Extension Service agents.

• 94 kindergarten students increased their knowledge of healthy drink choices through participation in activities planned by the Roane County WVU Extension Service office staff during Spencer Elementary School’s spring 2018 kindergarten field trip.

• 90 kindergarten students learned about caring for a variety of pets, including ferrets, rabbits, lizards, cats, dogs, etc., during an in-school presentation about pets.

• 264 fifth through eighth grade Geary and Walton Middle School students participated in a STARS I Can Overcome presentation in collaboration with the Adolescent Health Initiative, Region V.

**Special Interest Programs**

• 10 middle school students increased their knowledge of robotics through participation in after-school classes offered collaboratively with PATCH 21.

• 585 youths engaged in hands-on STEM activities involving robotics, rocketry, engineering, animal science and other STEM fields through programming implemented by AmeriCorps Summer Associate VISTAs. These youths increased in STEM content-related knowledge and gained awareness of career possibilities in STEM fields.

• 359 youths and 131 adults increased their knowledge of livestock selection and care and other agriculture-science topics through participation in a series of five youth livestock workshops held in 2018.

• Eight Roane County 4-H members competed in the West Virginia Beef Quiz Bowl. One of Roane County’s junior division teams placed fourth overall.

• 131 youths participated in STEM activities, sponsored by the Roane County WVU Extension Service, during the Roane County Family Resource Network’s 2018 Back to School Bash.

**Volunteerism**

• 24 4-H club leaders and 61 additional volunteers contributed more than 3,000 hours of service to the Roane County 4-H program.

• Two county 4-H volunteers were inducted into the West Virginia 4-H All Stars in recognition of their outstanding records of service to the 4-H program and other community organizations.
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- 29 adult volunteers, statewide, were trained to deliver Leap into Science curriculum. Five of those trained are Roane County 4-H volunteers, who are providing Leap into Science programming during their club meetings and county 4-H events.

- Six volunteers attended the statewide 4-H Volunteer Leaders’ Weekend and two volunteers were certified as air pistol and air rifle instructors after attending statewide 4-H shooting sports instructor training.

- 24 community members served as program volunteers for the Roane County 4-H and FFA Youth Livestock Show and Sale, contributing more than $25,000 in facility improvements to the barn.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Farm Management

- 104 soil tests were performed, involving 1,028 acres.

- 87 farmers in the region learned progressive farming techniques at our annual series of three winter agricultural dinner meetings on farm management topics, and $600 was generated from local partners to provide support.

- 27 private pesticide applicators educational credit hours were provided to seven landowners.

- Numerous pest and plant identification, diagnostic and control advice services were provided.

- 16 swine producers increased knowledge of swine production and artificial insemination through an artificial insemination clinic.

- Five farm visits were conducted to assist landowners and producers with assessment of water and fencing needs and livestock working facilities.

Horticulture

- The Roane County WVU Extension Service assisted in the delivery of a statewide Grow This! West Virginia Garden Challenge social media campaign to encourage more youths, adults and communities to grow something new. Seeds were sent out to 1,534 participants.

- The WVU Extension Service ANR agent in Roane County authored two fact sheets on growing sweet corn and growing popcorn in West Virginia that were distributed with seed packets for the Grow This! West Virginia Garden Challenge, as well as published on WVU Extension Service website for public use.

- The ANR agent published an article titled Lessons from the 90s: Bell Pepper Marketing Considerations for Small Part-Time Growers in the “West Virginia Small Farmer Advocate” winter edition. The publication has a distribution of 8,000.

- The ANR agent authored an article on creating your own pollinator haven in the WVU Extension Service Garden Calendar, which has a statewide distribution of 80,000 copies. 440 copies were distributed locally.

- The WVU Extension Service ANR agent in Roane County conducted a tree pruning workshop, where 13 participants demonstrated proficiency in pruning.

- Extension Master Gardener volunteers provided 386 hours of training and contributed 507 hours of volunteer service on 25 projects, including the pruning and general landscaping needs for the Roane County Courthouse. Eight volunteers served leadership roles in a local association and maintained a treasury of approximately $2,000. Extension Master Gardeners conducted the seventh annual Farm and Garden Education Series for the public.
Extension Master Gardeners collaborated with the Hill and Hollow Garden Club, where 12 local service projects were completed.

**Marketing**

- The Roane County WVU Extension Service offered an Annie’s Project workshop on marketing risks for 15 female producers and pre- and post-test results revealed an increase in participants’ confidence in their ability to manage risks.
- The ANR agent assisted with producer education and marketing efforts for 40 producers involved in a regional local food marketing cooperative known as the Mid-Ohio Valley Growers Association. As a result, they generated $46,266.25 in revenue.
- Four local producers consigned purebred angus bulls and heifers to the West Virginia Southern Test Station to improve management practices, herd genetics and marketing opportunities throughout West Virginia and surrounding area.
- The ANR agent assisted the West Central Beekeepers Association draft a $4,6540 specialty crop block grant to fund honeybee food and package bees.
- The WVU Extension Service ANR agent in Roane County served as a technical advisor for the West Central Beekeepers Association, serving six members. She also assisted in planning the third annual Honey Expo that brought together more than 143 community members to learn more about honeybees and honeybee by-products.
- The ANR agent trained and provided technical assistance to two volunteer market managers in the administration of two county farmers markets in Amma and Spencer.
- The ANR agent provided training to 12 farmers market vendors to enable them to accept the senior and WIC vouchers provided to low-income individuals to promote the consumption of more fruits and vegetables.

**Youth Agriculture**

- The WVU Extension Service ANR agent conducted a mock beef bowl contest during 4-H County Round-up for 18 youths where participants learned the contest protocol and sample questions.
- 45 youths and 30 adults increased their knowledge of dairy by-products and butter-making through hands-on activities at the West Virginia Molasses Festival.
- Ninety sixth through eighth grade students learned more about agricultural career opportunities as part of the Spencer Middle School Career Day.
- Eight youths exhibited livestock and participated in hands-on educational exhibits at the State Fair of West Virginia.
- The ANR agent assisted with the annual Roane County Farm Bureau’s fourth grade Agriculture in West Virginia poster contest, where all fourth graders had the opportunity to compete for $300 in cash prizes.

**Farm-to-School**

- The Roane County WVU Extension Service obtained a $9,000 grant from the West Virginia Department of Education to construct a high tunnel at the Geary Elementary Middle School for 2019.
- The Roane County WVU Extension Service obtained $18,2320 in funding from West Virginia Promise to hire an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer to serve as farm-to-school coordinator for local school gardening programs and area producers.
- Farm-to-school training and projects were conducted at Spencer Elementary, Walton Elementary Middle School, Building Blocks Child Development Center and Geary Elementary
Middle School. New and existing raised bed gardens were constructed/modified and planted using hands-on learning with students.

- More than $25,000 in sales were made to regional schools through the local farm-to-school program.

Statewide Initiatives

- The WVU Extension Service ANR agent assisted in the development and delivery of the West Virginia Small Farm Conference in Charleston, West Virginia, where 21 Roane County producers learned more about risk management, marketing, production and sustainable practices to improve or begin operations. This conference also hosted a youth entrepreneur’s contest where 12 Roane County youths competed for more than $5,000 in prizes.

- The ANR agent assisted in the development and delivery of the West Virginia Women in Agriculture Conference for 165 producers and secured scholarship funding for three local women to attend the event.

- The ANR agent served on the West Virginia Food Safety Team to help producers develop and implement food safety plans for their operation to meet federal mandates and possibly apply for good agricultural practices (GAP) certification. 16 local producers participated in a training co-taught at the Roane-Jackson Technical Center, and 36 producers participated in the training co-taught at the West Virginia Small Farm Conference. One local producer is awaiting the final GAP audit to become certified and another has a complete food safety plan in place as a result.

- The Roane County ANR agent served on WVU Extension Service’s Youth Ag Safety Days committee and delivered bicycle safety and helmet education for 249 children providing helmets to each child that participated.

- The ANR agent served as the secretary for West Virginia Agri-women. The organization of 36 members advocated for agricultural issues awareness in West Virginia and provided networking opportunities, education for skill building and leadership development for women involved in agriculture, which included a summer tour of an agri-tourism operation in the Eastern Panhandle.

- The Roane County ANR agent served on the WVU Extension Service grazing management team that was awarded $600,000 to implement a train-the-trainer professional development program to improve West Virginia grassland management.

- The ANR agent served as a faculty mentor to the agent-in-training in the Wirt County WVU Extension Service office.

- The Roane County ANR agent served as a member of the WVU Extension Service state agricultural dinner meeting planning committee.

National Outreach

- The Roane County ANR agent co-presented a research poster titled “Connecting Farmers to Children, Families and the Community—West Virginia Kids Farmers Market Program” at the National Extension Risk Management Educators Conference.

- The ANR agent co-authored an abstract submission that was accepted for presentation at the 2019 Joint Council of Extension Professionals’ Public Issues Leadership Development Conference titled, “The West Virginia Food Safety Training Team - A Model for Inter-agency and Cross-disciplinary Food Safety Partnerships.”

Family and Community Development

School-based Programs and Enrichment
• 93 third, fourth and fifth graders at Walton Elementary Middle School participated in Show Me Nutrition programming.

• 341 Walton Elementary Middle School students and 191 Geary Elementary Middle School students participated in a kids’ mobile market and food nutrition activities sponsored by Mountaineer Food Bank and WVU Extension Service.

• Extension agents served as school volunteers and/or judges in career, science, social studies and reading fairs.

• Extension agents engaged as a community stakeholder in the Wild, Wonderful Healthy West Virginia Taskforce to use health as an economic driver for local, thriving economies and healthy communities that support economic growth.

Adult Education and Outreach

• Nutrition education was provided for 28 adult students through a collaborative partnership between the WVU Extension Service Family Nutrition Program and the Roane County SPOKES/Adult Basic Education Program.

• 24 community members participated in an educational workshop to learn and practice recommended boiling water bath and pressure canning procedures for meats and dried beans for home food preservation.

• 16 participants learned more about goal setting using vision boards through an educational workshop on goal setting strategies.

• 32 parents of Head Start preschoolers increased their knowledge of parenting-related topics through participation in four educational workshops.

• 28 community members learned how to accurately monitor their blood pressure through participation in the Check, Change, Control program or a self-monitoring blood pressure station open house. A self-monitoring blood pressure station has been made available to the community through a collaborative partnership with the Roane County Library in Spencer.

• One Community Educational Outreach Service club, known as the Gandeeville CEOS Club, had 10 active members and contributed 12,052 hours of community service to various project for families and health-based initiatives in the county.

• The Roane County WVU Extension Service hosted a regional CEOS training for 68 adults on club management of officer training.

Community Development/Tourism/Economic Development

• Roane County Extension agents contributed to the planning and implementation of the West Virginia Black Walnut Festival as organizers of the exhibits and nut contests, as well as coordinated the distribution of more than $1,000 in premium monies. 217 community members submitted exhibit entries including, 156 4-H exhibits, 98 agricultural exhibits, 41 food fair exhibits, 89 handicraft exhibits, 181 canned food exhibits, 40 black walnut sweepstakes entries and 49 hickory nut sweepstakes entries.

• The Roane County WVU Extension Service coordinated with members of the Camp Sheppard advisory committee to conduct four fundraisers with profits totaling more than $11,500 and to procure more than $17,000 in grant funding to support renovation and upkeep projects at the camp. Roane County Extension agents served on the hiring committee to interview and select a new caretaker for the facility.

• Roane County Extension agents coordinated and/or supervised AmeriCorps programs that provided eight summer AmeriCorps members with living allowances and educational awards totaling $24,542.
• The Roane County WVU Extension Service collaborated with the Roane Jackson Technical Center to write and submit an EPIC grant to construct a new council circle at Camp Sheppard that will be completed spring 2019.

• Roane County Extension agents co-authored a grant proposal to the Parkersburg Area Community Foundation requesting $15,832 for playground equipment at the Spencer Elementary School.

• Extension agents served as members and/or advisers of a number of community organizations, including Roane County Family Resource Network, Roane County Prevention Coalition, Camp Sheppard advisory committee, Roane County 4-H Leaders Association, Roane County 4-H Foundation, Roane County youth livestock committee, Roane County Energy Express Collaborative, Roane County Farm Bureau, Roane County High School band boosters, Roane County Arts and Humanities, Boy Scouts Troop 437 committee, Roane County Schools capital improvement stakeholders committee, Rotary Club of Spencer, Hill and Hollow Garden Club, West Central Beekeepers Association, West Central Extension Master Gardeners, Spencer Farmers Market and Amma Farmers Market.