

# Roane 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 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

- 420 youths engaged in summer reading packets prepared for the Roane County Library's branches in Spencer, Walton and Geary. The packets involved both STEM-based and healthy activities.
- 1,150 youths engaged in microgreens growing kits prepared with soil, plant containers and seeds for each participant to grow their own microgreens.
- 759 youths participated in our fall kids farmers markets at the elementary schools.

## 4-H/Youth Development

### *Traditional 4-H Programming and Clubs*

- 201 youths were enrolled in 10 4-H community clubs and one county 4-H junior leaders club.
- Seven 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.
- Seven county 4-H youths and four adult volunteers 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.
- 28 4-H club officers increased their knowledge of 4-H club officer duties and responsibilities through participation in the 4-H Club Officers Training School.
- 31 4-H members participated in presentation contests and public speaking competitions, while we had 57 poster entries, 21 photo exhibits, seven art projects, six writing entries and six entries in the cookie baking contest during the Roane County 4-H Round Up.
- 160 4-H project books, 60 record guides and 14 club officer books were completed by Roane County 4-H youths; 65 4-H and Cloverbud members completed 4-H project books and exhibits that were showcased virtually through our county program's social media page and recognized in the local media.

### *4-H School-Based Programs*

- 133 fifth through eighth grade students from Geary and Walton middle schools participated in a STARS I Can Overcome presentation in collaboration with the Adolescent Health Initiative, Region V.

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- 72 Geary Elementary/Middle School students participated in parent involvement activities such as rockets away, biosecurity and health, and strawberry DNA, complete with hands-on educational programs in partnership with Title I at the school.
- Conducted hand-washing demonstrations and brief educational programs utilizing the Germ City Glow Germ curriculum for 501 Spencer Elementary students.

### ***Camping***

- 74 youths participated in our Camp-in-a-Bag and virtual camping experiences to engage in personal crafts and STEM activities as well as virtual group discussions, songs, and opening and closing ceremonies.

### ***Special Interest Programs***

- 420 youths engaged in summer reading packets prepared for the Roane County Library's main branches in Spencer, Walton and Geary. The packets involved both STEM-based and healthy activities, such as diffraction glasses, Alka-Seltzer rockets, ghost spheres, glow sticks and healthy living.
- 1,150 youths engaged in microgreens growing kits prepared with soil, plant containers and seeds for each participant to grow their own microgreens and make daily observations using their growers guide booklet.

### ***Energy Express***

- 42 youths in first through sixth grades participated our Energy Express program; all youth participants received six take-home books to add to their home libraries

### ***Youth Agriculture***

- 67 youths participated in the Roane County FFA and Youth Livestock Show and Sale.
- 35 youths participated in the online youth quality assurance training for youth livestock exhibitors.

## **Agriculture and Natural Resources**

### ***Farm Management and Livestock Production***

- 84 soil tests involving 762 acres were performed.
- 57 farmers in the region learned progressive farming techniques at our annual winter dinner meetings.
- Ten private pesticide applicators educational credit hours were provided to 24 regional applicators who took part in the six-week Mid-Ohio Valley AgZoom virtual series.
- Adapted curriculum and taught a virtual workshop on raising backyard chickens for 17 participants.
- 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.

### ***Horticulture***

- 53 Extension Master Gardener volunteers were provided 232.3 hours of training and contributed 397.7 hours of service on 25 service projects, including the pruning and general landscaping needs for the Roane County Courthouse, the Spencer community, and local schools, churches and campgrounds.
- Collaborated with the Hill and Hollow Garden Club, where 12 local service projects were completed.

### ***Farm to School***

- Assisted with obtaining \$5,000 in grants and donations to support additions and improvements to the high tunnel at the Geary Elementary/Middle School.
- Partnered with a local Girl Scout Troop to complete an outdoor classroom pavilion located next to the school high tunnel.
- Collaborated with West Virginia Promise to retain an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer to serve as a farm to school coordinator for local school gardening programs and area producers for another year.

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- Farm to School coloring and essay contests were conducted for all Roane County schools and distant learning students and had to be extended to 2021 to provide \$100 in gift card prizes for winning students to raise the awareness of the importance of knowing where food comes from.

### *Local Foods*

- 166 families participated in the Grow This: West Virginia Garden Challenge program, where they received free seeds and engaged in educational programs and activities promoted through our social media campaign and grew their own produce to help with food security.
- 56 individuals participated in the Grow This: West Virginia Garden Challenge pop-up seed exchange that we partnered with a local florist to promote and host. An additional 39 individuals were able to participate in the seed exchange with the help of our WVU Extension Master Gardener volunteers, who provided the seed exchange table at the Spencer Farmers Market, ensuring that 95 individuals were able to use seeds to grow their own food at home.
- 42 families were provided starter salsa garden kits thanks to donations from a local greenhouse, which provided plants to encourage residents to grow more of their own food.

## Families and Health

### *School-Based Programs and Enrichment*

- 71 Walton Elementary/Middle School students and 77 Geary Elementary/Middle School students and 77 Spencer Elementary School students in third through fifth grades, for a total of 225 students, participated in Show Me Nutrition lessons.
- 253 Walton Elementary Middle School students and 248 Geary Elementary Middle School students and 258 Spencer Elementary School students, for a total of 759 students participated in our fall Kids' Farmers Markets that provided fresh fruits and vegetable bags to student to promote consumption and cooking with fresh produce at home with their families and supports local farmers.

### *Adult Education and Outreach*

- Nutrition education was provided for 20 adult students through a collaborative partnership between the WVU Extension Family Nutrition Program and the Roane County SPOKES/Adult Basic Education Program.
- 24 parents of Geary Elementary/Middle School students increased their school participation and knowledge in STEM-related activities for youths through our partnership with the Title I in three educational workshops focused on parental involvement.
- Community Education Outreach Service club, known as the Gandeeville CEOS Club, had 11 active members and contributed 4,392 hours of community service to various project for families and health-based initiatives in the county.

## Safety and Health

- Distributed 581 homemade face masks and 300 personal hand sanitizers bottles to school-age children in Roane County.

## Community Development/Tourism/Economic Development

- Organized the Black Walnut and Hickory Nut Sweepstakes as the only event of the West Virginia Black Walnut Festival, due to COVID-19 restrictions preventing other festival activities. With 21 entries, we coordinated the judging and distribution of \$240 in premium monies in partnership with WVBWF committee.