Roane County Annual Report 2019

Putting Knowledge to Work!

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

Highlights

- Distributed a bi-monthly newsletter with updates on programming efforts and impacts (849 electronic copies and 235 mailed copies). 534 individuals visited (signed in) the Roane County office.
- 641 youths engaged in hands-on STEM activities implemented by county Extension agents and AmeriCorps Summer Associate VISTA.
- 131 youths participated in the Roane County 4-H and FFA Youth Livestock Program animal placement contest, 133 youths participated in the showmanship contest and 129 youths sold a livestock project animal during the 4-H and FFA Youth Livestock Sale generating $206,075.75 in sales.
- 302 youths from three elementary schools participated in the Show Me Nutrition lessons provided by the health educator.

4-H/Youth Development

Traditional 4-H Programming and Clubs

- 236 active 4-H club members make up 13 community 4-H clubs, one Junior Leader 4-H club and four Cloverbud clubs.
- 12 Roane County 4-H members earned their West Virginia 4-H pin, the highest county-level 4-H award a member can earn.
- Four county 4-H youths were inducted into the West Virginia 4-H All Stars organization, the highest state-level 4-H award for an outstanding record of service.
- 42 4-H club officers increased their knowledge of 4-H club officer duties and responsibilities through the 4-H Club Officers’ Training School.
- 41 4-H members participated in presentation contests, public speaking competitions and other events at the Roane County 4-H Round Up.
- 143 4-H project books, 98 record guides and 14 club officer books were completed by Roane County 4-H’ers. 156 4-H and Cloverbud members completed 4-H project books and exhibits that were showcased during the West Virginia Black Walnut Festival.
Camping
- The Roane County 4-H Leaders’ Association, private donors and the Roane County 4-H Foundation provided 29 scholarships totaling $2,320 to youths attending county 4-H camp. Community clubs raised an additional $5,216 to provide scholarships for club members attending county camp.
- 121 youths earned awards during the county 4-H camp—27 youths receiving full county camp scholarships and four receiving full scholarships to attend state 4-H camps.
- 17 Roane County youths attended 4-H Cloverbud Day Camp for children ages 5 to 8.
- 32 youths attended a state 4-H camp or event. The Roane County 4-H Leaders’ Association and Foundation provided $1,755 in 32 partial camp scholarships.

Energy Express
- 32 youths (grades 1 through 6) participated in the Roane County Energy Express program. 68% of the participants either maintained (4.2%) or increased (64.5%) their letter-word identification, reading fluency and passage comprehension. The average child gained 3.1 months in broad reading achievement.
- 1,000 meals were served during the six-week program. Take-home bags also were made available for the weekends.

School-Based Programs
- 167 Roane County third grade students increased their knowledge of agriculture science fields by participating in the Roane County Agriculture Field Day.
- 74 seventh grade students participated in a hands-on wearable circuitry activity.
- 91 kindergarten students increased their knowledge of healthy drink choices during the Spencer Elementary School’s spring 2019 kindergarten field trip.
- 236 students (grades 5 through 8) from two schools participated in a STARS I Can Overcome presentation in collaboration with the Adolescent Health Initiative, Region V.
- 250 Geary Elementary/Middle School students and parents participated in parent involvement activities.

Special Interest Programs
- 10 middle school students attended afterschool robotics classes offered collaboratively with PATCH 21.
- 641 youths engaged in hands-on STEM activities through programming implemented by county Extension agents and the AmeriCorps Summer Associate VISTA. These youths increased their STEM-related knowledge and gained an awareness of career possibilities in STEM fields.
- 131 youths participated in the Roane County 4-H and FFA Youth Livestock Program animal placement contest, 133 youths participated in the showmanship contest, and 129 youths sold a livestock project animal during the 4-H and FFA Youth Livestock Sale generating $206,075.75 in sales.

Volunteerism
- 24 4-H club leaders and 61 volunteers contributed more than 3,000 service hours to the 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.
- 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
- 98 soil tests were performed involving 863 acres.
- 83 farmers attended a series of three dinner meetings on farm management topics.
- 12 farm visits were done to assist landowners and producers with assessment of water and fencing needs and livestock working facilities.

Horticulture
- Conducted a tree pruning workshop where 26 participants demonstrated proficiency in pruning skills.
- Extension Master Gardener volunteers were provided 525 hours of training and contributed 782 hours of service on 25 service projects. Collaborated with the Hill and Hollow Garden Club to complete 12 local service projects.

Marketing
- Assisted 12 farmers market producers with producer education and marketing efforts.
- 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.
- Trained and provided technical assistance for two volunteer market managers in the administration of two county farmers markets (Amma and Spencer).
- Provided training to 12 farmers market vendors to enable them to accept the senior and WIC vouchers provided to low-income individuals.

Youth Agriculture
- Nine youths exhibited livestock and participated in hands-on educational exhibits at the State Fair of West Virginia.

Farm to School
- Assisted with obtaining $6,000 in funds to support the completion of the high tunnel at the Geary Elementary Middle School.
- 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.
- More than $8,000 in sales to schools were made through the farm to school program.

Families and Health

School-Based Programs and Enrichment
- 85 Walton Elementary/Middle School students, 92 Geary Elementary/Middle School students and 125 Spencer Elementary School students participated in Show Me Nutrition lessons provided by the health educator.

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.
- 32 parents of Head Start preschoolers increased their knowledge of parenting-related topics through participation in four educational workshops.
• 12 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.
• The Gandeeville CEOS Club had 10 active members and contributed 8,943 community service hours to various project for families and health-based initiatives.

Community Development/Tourism/Economic Development

• Coordinated with members of the Camp Sheppard Advisory Committee to conduct four fundraisers to support caretaker, renovations and upkeep projects at the camp.
• Served as members and/or advisers with a number of community organizations, including Roane County Family Resource Network, Roane County Prevention Coalition, Camp Sheppard Advisory Committee, Roane County Farm Bureau, Roane County Arts and Humanities and West Central Beekeepers Association, among numerous others.