Marion County Annual Report 2019

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 Marion 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

- 584 youths served via kids’ markets throughout Marion County thanks to a grant from DTE Energy and a partnership with Mountaineer Food Bank.
- Five markets held at East Park Elementary School (grades Pre-K to 4) and five markets were held at Fairview Elementary School (grades Pre-K through 5th).
- Celebrated 100 years of camping in Marion County.
- Marion County CEOS members volunteered 8,800+ hours and raised $13,151 to support projects.

4-H/Youth Development

Activities:

Camping
- Marion County 4-H Camp was held at Camp Mar-Mac with 146 overnight campers ages 8 to 21.
- 19 Cloverbuds, ages 5 to 8, participated in Cloverbud Day, during 4-H Camp.
- There were 40 adult counselors and six teen counselors, who, along with staff, led a successful week of camp.

Celebrating 100 Years of Camping
- 2019 marked 100 years of 4-H Camping in Marion County.
- All former Marion County campers were invited to visit and reminisce about their wonderful experiences in the Marion County 4-H Program.

4-H Round-Up
- All 4-H’ers and Cloverbuds were invited to participate in the 4-H County Round-Up, which included an art show, cookie culinary challenge, 4-H Pledge (for Cloverbuds), visual presentation and public speaking contests, PowerPoint presentation contest and a creative
There were 28 participants in various categories of this event in 2019.

**Energy Express**
- This six-week summer reading program (grades 1st through 6th) was held at West Fairmont Middle School.
- 40 children (max capacity) participated, with 90% of attendees present more than half of the time.
- Attendees received two nutritious meals daily.

**Agriculture and Natural Resources**

**Buyers Workshop for 4-H and FFA Livestock Program**
- Youth participants with the livestock program continued to work with the agriculture agent on a letter writing campaign to help increase the number of buyers (as well as enhance awareness) at the Youth Livestock Sale during the Mannington District Fair.

**Marion County Master Gardener Program**
- Training Course – Marion and Harrison counties provided master gardener training to six Marion County residents.
- Valley Falls State Park – Master Gardeners have been working closely with the Valley Falls group to turn their flower beds into sustainable and educational pieces to be maintained by the park.
- Marion County Master Gardeners provided more than 1,600 volunteer hours.

**Families and Community Development**

**Marion County Community Education Outreach Service**
- Marion County CEOS members volunteered 8,800+ hours and provided $13,151.75 in donations collected to support community projects.

**Sixth annual Bright Futures for Marion County Students**
- WVU Extension Service partners with Fairmont State University, the Marion County Board of Education and the Marion County Commission, to bring eighth graders from around the county to Fairmont State’s campus to participate in workshops on resiliency, substance abuse prevention, youth advocacy and team building.
  - This year 516 students from seven schools participated.
  - Students showed measurable gains in knowledge as measured by pre/post test.
  - The event increased student interest in attending college.

**Summer Feeding**
• Each year Marion County 4-H Leaders Association serve as the fiscal agent to two summer feeding sites, one being an enrolled site at Camp Mar-Mac, and the other an open feeding site in coordination with the Energy Express program.

• 2,107 meals were served to children and $6,915.090 was received in reimbursements.

*Family Food Pantry Program*

• Energy Express participants had the option to participate in a food pantry program supported by community partners. Perishable and non-perishable foods were sent home to the families weekly.