Doddridge 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 Doddridge 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

- The Doddridge County WVU Extension Service continued to provide traditional programs and services to which our community is accustomed, while adding new and/or unique and timely programs and experiences to enhance the lives of those around us.

- Local citizens continue to engage, participate, learn and improve their lives by maintaining close relationships with the Doddridge County WVU Extension Service office and staff members.

- The Doddridge County WVU Extension Service has increased participation in programs and club/organization meetings and activities by utilizing an automated call system to provide club/organization members and registrants with detailed information and reminders.

- The Doddridge County WVU Extension Service has improved the convenience, efficiency and timeliness of all program and event registration processes by utilizing an online events management system, which includes online payment methods.

- Several methods were utilized to communicate details of our programs and events to the public (i.e., local newspaper and radio station, automated call system, Facebook, website, newsletters and personal mailings when appropriate).

- Because the Doddridge County Commission owns the office building WVU Extension Service is housed in, the Extension office cooperates with local government and other organizations to allow them to utilize Extension Service meeting space and resources.

- The Doddridge County WVU Extension Service has provided programs, events and resources to the community at no cost or a minimal fee, since they are also supported by tax dollars through the county special levy and the board of education excess levy.

4-H and Youth Development

4-H School-based Programs
- Doddridge County WVU Extension Service partnered with the local board of education to host an after-school 4-H open house at the middle school. The event provided youths and families with an opportunity to learn about the 4-H program, including how to enroll, traditional and special interest clubs, and leadership learning activities.
- A teen leader 4-H club met monthly during lunch hour at Doddridge County High School.
- Doddridge County WVU Extension Service provided learning experiences to school-age youths during school-sponsored, after-school programs.

4-H Programming and Clubs
- Several traditional clubs are still in existence throughout Doddridge County.
- Specialty clubs draw a large enrollment in Doddridge County, such as livestock club, shooting sports club, farmers club, teen leaders club and teen club.
- Doddridge County shooting sports club members have participated in state and national competitions.

Special Interest Programs
- Through the help of Doddridge County 4-H Foundation’s membership and the Parkersburg Area Community Foundation, the Friends of 4-H contributed financially to 4-H programming efforts during the Give Local Day.
- The 4-H/FFA livestock show and sale participation by members and buyers increased steadily.
- Doddridge County 4-H members participated in county, state and national camps and events. Doddridge County 4-H camp is the highlight of the year for county members and volunteers.
- Local youths experienced incredible hands-on activities that combined new technology and engineering to learn about rockets, robotics, Sphero, 3D printing and WeDo during STEM day camps and activities.
- Doddridge County WVU Extension Service served 40 school-age youths through Energy Express, a six-week summer reading and nutrition program, that helps to prevent the “summer slide” in children’s learning. Through this program, summer employment was provided to seven local college-age students.

Agriculture and Natural Resources
- With the help of WVU Extension Service’s consumer horticulture specialist, Doddridge County WVU Extension Service conducted a day-long fruit tree maintenance and pruning workshop and hands-on learning experience on-site at a local farm.
- Participants in the Intro to Beekeeping Class gained general knowledge of the beekeeping process in order to determine whether they would begin their own hive.
- Agricultural dinner meetings are held in Doddridge County and surrounding areas to keep farmers informed, educated and networked. Doddridge County collaborated with Ritchie and Tyler counties to provide this service.
Doddridge County WVU Extension Service supported and assisted the town and market master by providing resources and on-site events each day of the Doddridge County farmer market. Events focused on relevant learning at Family Fun Days once a month during market season. Extension Service also provided media advertising and vendor training.

Doddridge County WVU Extension Service assisted with Farm Days at the county fair, which provided opportunities for youths and families to participate in fun games, contests, live animal exhibits and farm-related displays during fair week.

A tree identification seminar was held that focused on exploring the trees and shrubs of West Virginia and how to identify them by bark, twig and buds.

Local citizens accessed our knowledge and resources for many garden, forest, land, farming or other related questions or referrals.

A certified Master Gardener 10-week course was planned in late 2018 for January/February 2019. The unique approach to this learning experience will be to allow community members to attend any or all sessions, free of charge, for general information. Certified Master Gardeners also can attend for continuing education credits.

**Family and Community Development**

Doddridge County WVU Extension Service hosted a viewing of “HEROIN(E)” to provide awareness and understanding of the opioid dilemma in West Virginia and how to be involved through resources and solutions.

Doddridge County Community Educational Outreach Service members held a Show and Share Day (open to the public) focused on teaching and sharing various craft-making sessions with participants.

A cooking class at CEOS Show and Share Day helped participants learn to make their own spice blends and baking mixes, and included an Instant Pot instructional session.

During a cast-iron cooking class, participants learned about the history and mechanics of this cooking method and experienced hands-on demonstrations of various recipes.

A monthly Stitching and Craft Day was held at the Doddridge County WVU Extension Service office, where any resident could bring their sewing, fiber arts or craft projects from home and enjoy a day of instruction, support and fellowship while completing their projects.

Three basket-making workshops were held to instruct weavers in the art of completing a reed basket. The Doddridge County WVU Extension Service supports preservation of heritage arts.

During Instant Pot cooking classes, participants were instructed in how to use the new appliance, shared recipes and taste-tested some recipes that were made during class. The Doddridge County WVU Extension agent also taught this class in other counties.

Doddridge County CEOS clubs hosted a day-long holiday bazaar that included shopping (crafts and baked goods), dining and fellowship. The event was open to the public and also served as a fundraising source so that the clubs can provide community service projects.
• Through a grant from the Foundation for National Institutes of Health, the Doddridge County WVU Extension Service office provided on-site blood pressure self-monitoring stations for community members to obtain an accurate blood pressure reading any time during office hours.

• CEOS lesson leader training sessions were held nine times throughout the year to provide resources and information enabling CEOS lesson leaders to teach the monthly lesson at the club meetings.

• Each year in February, Doddridge County WVU Extension Service celebrates heart health month by hosting a Heart Health Luncheon for community members. Attendees learned to determine their risk for heart disease, learned how to improve their heart health and got to eat a delicious, healthy lunch.

• The Doddridge County CEOS organization conducted a day-long annual health fair to enable local residents to obtain various low-cost blood screenings.