Doddridge 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 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 4-H youth livestock sale generated over $224,000 from the sale of 84 project animals. More than $22,000 was donated back to the program.
- Seven community 4-H clubs raised and returned over $7,800 back to the community in a variety of 4-H club service projects, including buying backpacks for at-risk children, helping victims of a home fire, providing nursing home gifts and beautification projects.
- 25 Doddridge County 4-H Teen Leaders spent the weekend in Washington, D.C., visiting and touring our nation's capital while representing West Virginia 4-H.

4-H/Youth Development

Camping

- 110 4-H'ers participated in a weeklong residential 4-H camp at the Doddridge County Park with 91% of campers taking one or more STEM-related classes.
- Fizz, Boom, Bam Camp, a weeklong day camp, exposed youths to hands-on learning activities in different STEM paths, including health, environmental and chemical sciences.
- 4-H Teen Leaders partnered with Tyler County Teens to offer an overnight camp to first-year campers, allowing new campers to make a buddy and learn more about the adventures awaiting at weeklong camp.

4-H School-based Programs

- 20 new members enrolled in Doddridge County 4-H as the result of creating a lunchtime fourth grade club at Doddridge County Elementary School. This club focused on community service projects, including a schoolwide food drive and sewing tissue holders for loved ones.
- 25 additional members enrolled in the Doddridge County 4-H program after a lunchtime seventh and eighth grade club that focuses on environmental STEM education was created. This effort is funded by a Ross Foundation STEM grant.
- 18 Teen Leaders participated in out-of-school and in-school community service projects. Doddridge County Teen Leaders sponsored a fundraising event that raised over $16,000 for
a fellow 4-H’er battling brain cancer. Other service efforts this year included the participating in the Shoebox project and filling holiday food baskets.

**Traditional 4-H Programming and Clubs**

- Nine community clubs with 162 members and 62 volunteers participated in project learning, community service, shooting sports and agriculture.

**Special Interest Programs**

- 22 vetted volunteers are certified in six shooting sports disciplines for Doddridge County. Those adults coach youths in archery, air pistol, air rifle, shotgun, muzzleloading and hunting skills with youth participating in four state shooting sports matches, attending state shooting sports camp and participating in county camp shooting sports classes.
- Cloverbuds were caught by WBOY reading to animals at a local shelter. This new club for 6- to 8-year-olds is actively participating in a variety of learning and service projects.
- Partnering with the high school and the state soil conservation district, Doddridge County coached an Envirothon team on soils, water, wildlife and forestry and competed at the West Virginia State Envirothon Competition in Canaan Valley.

**Agriculture and Natural Resources**

**Master Gardeners**

- Doddridge County Master Gardeners hosted a series of public learning lessons in the areas of botany, soils, plant propagation, entomology and IPM. 10 individuals completed the mandatory course work to become certified Master Gardeners.
- Partnering with the Doddridge County Park and 4-H campers, the Master Gardeners took the lead in planning and creating a pollinator garden at the county park.

**Farmers Market**

- The Doddridge County Farmers Market partnered with WVU Extension Service to host a training session to help vendors improve and develop their marketing strategies.
- WVU Doddridge County Extension Service successfully guided market managers to secure nearly 7,500 dollars from the Doddridge County Commission and the Parkersburg Area Community Foundation to support signage and marketing materials for the market.
- Worked with market managers to add five additional days of the market each month and offer STEM programs for youths at the market on Wednesdays.

**County Livestock Show and Sale**

- Besides showing and selling their project animals, 4-H and FFA members participated in a Quality Assurance Skill-a-thon and auction. Members earned “barnyard bucks” for participating in events and activities throughout the club year and cashed in their earnings during the youth-led auction.

**Agricultural Programming**

- With the help of WVU Extension Service's consumer horticulture specialist, hosted an all-day, hands-on fruit tree maintenance and pruning workshop for 14 participants at a local farm.
- Local residents participated in an intro to beekeeping course, where they gained a general knowledge of the beekeeping process to determine whether they would like to begin a hive. This intro class lead to a four-week series with 30 participants.
- Winter dinner meetings were held in Doddridge County in partnership with surrounding counties to keep farmers informed, educated and connected.
24 people participated in an interactive shiitake mushroom class, where they learned how to properly inoculate logs and grow their own mushrooms.

Helped homeowners and farmers understand their land potential with regular farm visits for soil sampling, soil test interpretation and management practice consultations.