

Hampshire 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 Hampshire 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

- More than 700 local youths were engaged in hands-on STEM learning activities and programs with two summer STEM VISTAs.
- The Hampshire County 4-H teen leadership program continues to be a successful outreach program with more than 40 teens participating in mentoring, planning and leading county 4-H events.
- The Hampshire County junior 4-H robotics team placed at the regional level and went on to represent our county at the state level.
- The area wool pool took in around 14,000 pounds of wool from approximately 40 producers.
- Approximately 50 non-English speaking immigrant workers were certified in Worker Protection Standard training.
- 76 youths from five counties participated in Youth Day at Poultry Week. Hampshire County took first place in the FFA divisions.

4-H and Youth Development

Camping

- During Hampshire County 4-H camp, June 11 to 15, 142 youth members participated in a five-day residential camping program at Hampshire Park. Campers participated in teamwork and leadership activities, accepted differences and participated in communication programs.
- More than 60 volunteers assisted with classes, meals and programs at the Hampshire County 4-H camp.
- While at camp, youths participated in campfire programs, recreation opportunities, 58 educational workshops, as well as tribal classes and team-building exercises.
- 29 Cloverbuds engaged in educational camping experiences on Cloverbud Day. Campers

further discussed controversial issues in family groups, practiced communication skills, and practiced leadership skills in tribes. Life skill evaluations revealed that campers developed positive life skills.

- During local training opportunities, there were significant gains in understanding and confidence among adult learners, as well as planned actions. 4-H volunteer participants showed significant gains in the areas of child protection and emotionally safe environments. All camp counselors were trained in the mandatory training topics.

4-H Learning Programs

- The statewide Know Your State curriculum was authored and piloted in 2018, with piloting continuing in 2019. Kelly Hicks, WVU Extension Service faculty member in Hampshire County, authored the Conflict in West Virginia sections in the younger and intermediate books. This educational tool will serve as a valuable resource for 4-H members in community clubs or classroom settings.
- Local 4-H members engaged in learning for the statewide 4-H Stockman's Judging Contest. Participants developed skills in critical thinking, leadership, teamwork, evaluation, communications and decision-making.
- Local 4-H members expanded their STEM knowledge by participating in the 4-H robotics team. Members engaged in hands-on robotics and educational STEM activities. The junior team placed at the regional level and went on to represent our county at the state level.

Leadership Development

- Adults were engaged in 4-H Club Basics and Who Polluted the Potomac workshops. Using a pre- and post-test, learners showed significant gains in understanding and planned actions as a result of the training.
- The Hampshire County 4-H teen leadership program continues to be a successful outreach program with its high level of membership. With more than 40 teens, many of these teens have engaged in mentoring, planning and leading county 4-H events.

Special Interest Programs

- Two summer associate STEM VISTAs engaged more than 700 local youths in hands-on STEM learning activities and programs. Many of these learning programs took place with traditional summer audiences at camp, the fair, the public library and after Energy Express.

Youth Literacy

- Hampshire County's collaborative secured \$13,861 in local funds to help support two Energy Express sites in the county.
- Local AmeriCorps members received more than \$30,000 to support their living and educational expenses.
- As a result of participating in Energy Express, Woodcock Johnson evaluation results revealed that children showed significant increases in letter-word identification, reading fluency, passage comprehension and broad reading. 67% of children either maintained or increased their reading skills (61.2%), and the average child gained 1.7 months in broad

reading achievement.

- Energy Express participants also received two free nutritious meals each day (58% of their daily nutritional requirements) and one take-home book each week.
- Community volunteers engaged in more than 1,201 hours of community service at the Hampshire County Energy Express sites, including 605 hours spent on reading and writing activities with children.
- Engagement in major literacy research endeavors led to significant outcomes for WVU Extension Service. As a member of the WVU Extension Service literacy team, Kelly Hicks, WVU Extension Service faculty member, co-authored the Parent Express – Connecting to Nature fact sheet. The team’s Parent Express newsletter series was published in 2018 and is now on the WVU Extension Service website. These fact sheets will serve as excellent educational resources for West Virginia families.
- Kelly Hicks was selected to serve as a national reviewer for the National Summer Learning Association’s Summer Learning Excellence Award Submissions.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Youth Agriculture

- Hampshire County Extension Service ANR agent, Alexandria Straight, taught a weeklong “Ag in a Bag” class at Hampshire County 4-H camp.
- Alexandria Straight coached multiple junior and senior Beef Expo judging teams in Hampshire County. Students learned forage and feed identification, expected progeny differences, equipment identification, feeder calf grading and meat cut identification.
- The Hampshire County ANR agent coached a poultry judging team and co-coached a judging team for the horse judging competition.
- Youths participated in the artificial insemination class held in Augusta, West Virginia.
- More than 80 youths participated in the Livestock Boot Camp in Hampshire County.
- Alexandria Straight taught two lamb labs and co-taught sheep shearing classes for two labs at Potomac State College for the A&VS 251 class.
- Alexandria Straight represented WVU Extension Service at the weeklong Hampshire County Fair, where she acted as adviser, teacher and problem solver for the livestock committees and fair boards.
- The Hampshire County ANR agent freeze branded bulls for the Wardensville Bull Test. Over the course of a week, she taught more than 100 youths from Grant, East Hardy, Moorefield and Hampshire County how to administer freeze branding and about performance testing of bulls.
- Alexandria Straight helped plan and implement the Potomac Highlands 4-H Horse Camp, where she taught beginner western classes. More than 50 youths attended the camp.
- 76 youths from five counties participated in Youth Day at Poultry Week. Hardy County took first place in the junior division and second place in the senior division. Hampshire County took first place in the FFA divisions.

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- Approximately 20 youths participated in the BBQ contest held during Youth Day.
- 140 exhibitors took part in the Hampshire County Fair.

Annie's Project

- Hampshire County WVU Extension Service added Annie's Project to the Potomac Highlands area, with 14 individuals signed up from several counties and even one from Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
- 12 participants graduated from Annie's Project.
- Five Annie's Project participants attended the West Virginia Women in Agriculture Conference.

Artificial Insemination of Livestock

- More than 50 individuals attended the Artificial Insemination of Livestock session. Three hands-on sessions are planned for 2019.

Soil Fertility Survey of Poultry Litter Amended Fields in Chesapeake Bay Counties and Litter Promotion Program in the North Central Counties in West Virginia

- Hampshire County ANR agent, Alexandria Straight, served as principal investigator for the "Soil Fertility Survey of Poultry Litter Amended Fields in Chesapeake Bay Counties and Litter Promotion Program in the North Central Counties in West Virginia" grant project. This project is in its first year and was awarded funding through Region 9, a group in the Eastern Panhandle that identifies, applies for and administers certain federal and state grants, and provides a regional focus on multiple programs undertaken in an area-wide basis. Hampshire County WVU Extension Service applied for a grant to help balance the potential excess nutrients from poultry litter in the Eastern Panhandle with the lack of nutrients in the central part of the state.

Wool Pool

- The area wool pool took in around 14,000 pounds of wool from approximately 40 producers.

Local Foods

- Approximately 50 non-English speaking immigrant workers were certified in Worker Protection Standard training. Orchards were brought back up to compliance with pesticide records, and two farms did their fit tests on respirators.
- 25 to 35 people attended four fruit growers' meetings. More than \$400 was raised to support the fruit growers' meetings.
- Hampshire County WVU Extension Service was also able to do more monitoring for pests and diseases in the orchards with the help of an additional new hire.
- With new monitoring system, Hampshire County Extension Service was able to document that there was not much disease outbreak, with the exception of higher incidence of first blight, compared to other years. This was due to the unusually wet weather.
- One producer used mating disruption in 80 acres of apples, which lead to a reduction of

insecticide sprays for oriental fruit moth and codling moth. The sprays this producer applied were based on monitoring data and decreased his costs on pesticides.