

# Hampshire County Annual Report 2020

## 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

- WVU Hampshire County Extension Service continued to reach audiences through numerous virtual learning platforms during the COVID Pandemic. Youth and adult audiences remained connected through the URLinked 4-H camp, statewide 4-H SPIN Clubs and Energy Express.

## 4-H/Youth Development

### *Camping*

- 4-H'ers engaged in a variety of educational topics, such as tin can gardening, ATV safety, four-minute snacks and upcycle gardening, through the Camp URLinked for Hampshire and Mineral counties, a virtual 4-H camp.
- Members engaged in similar learning activities through the statewide Camp URLinked virtual 4-H camping program. Evaluation results revealed that campers used Camp URLinked to feel connected to their peers and community during a time of social distancing.

### *Traditional 4-H Programming and Clubs*

- The Eastern Region 4-H SPIN Clubs were successfully planned and implemented to 4-H members during fall 2020, including a Healthy Snacks 4-H SPIN club. Evaluation results revealed that 4-H'ers that were engaged in these virtual SPIN clubs had a positive youth development experience. Ultimately, our team supported youth and enabled them to thrive during COVID-19 pandemic.
- Virtual Hampshire County 4-H Club meetings engaged members monthly in a virtual setting. Members enjoyed connecting with others while learning about indoor gardening, recycling, community service opportunities and teen leadership presentations.
- Served as a research team member with the 4-H Thriving Model Qualitative Study that is striving to understand how 4-H is helping youth thrive during the COVID-19 pandemic. Efforts with this project will ensure that West Virginia 4-H and the voices of West Virginia 4-H youths will be represented in a national qualitative study.

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## Hampshire County Report 2020

- Eighty-eight 4-H youth members exhibited almost two hundred exhibits in Hampshire County's virtual 4-H project exhibition during the COVID-19 pandemic, and seventy-three members exhibited 178 projects in the state's virtual 4-H project exhibition.

### *Special Interest Programs*

- The award-winning Energy Express program was offered virtually in Hampshire County in 2020 to 48 children. 65.7% of the children sampled either maintained (2.1%) or improved (63.6%) their reading Lexile placement. At every grade except fifth, results show that most participants (= >64.3%) either maintained or improved their Lexile placement level from the beginning of the program to the end. Children also received a weekly book and STEM kit.
- WVU Extension Service Six Energy Express mentors impacted our community by partnering with the Hampshire County Schools Summer Foods Program to help in meal distribution at local schools during the summer months.

## Agriculture and Natural Resources

### *Youth Agriculture*

- Led numerous Livestock Committee meetings, adjusted Mandatory Exhibitor Meetings to drive-in style. The 4-H and FFA Livestock Sale was moved to an online format with the help of a local auction company. The sale brought in a total of \$90,365 for youth exhibitors in the county.
- Organized and helped coach the Stockman's Team with volunteer Roy Milleson. Although the state contest was canceled, the group was able to compete in Front Royal in February 2020.
- Organized two mini-field trips for 4-H and FFA students interested in livestock during the fall of 2020.
- Helped teach and organize online Forestry Contest practices, which continued into 2021.

### *Garden Based Learning*

- Received \$2,900 grant from TryThisWV for the Slanesville Garden Project with help of Susan Parker of WV DEP.
- Held three Community Garden Education Days at the Garden in fall 2020.
- Provided produce from garden to the community from June through October.
- Provided lessons and videos for teachers to use with the garden in fall 2020.
- Secured funding for a high tunnel to be built at Capon Bridge Elementary.

### *Master Gardeners*

- Started a Master Gardener Class in February of 2020 – the class was moved online, but several members from Hampshire and surrounding counties finished the program requirements and successfully passed the test.
- Led Master Gardener business meetings and provided educational topics and speakers.
- Maintained a Master Gardener volunteer schedule for the Slanesville Garden. Volunteers averaged four hours of service each week from June through October.

### *Other Agriculture and Natural Resources Programming*

- Led three agricultural dinner meetings in early 2020. An average of 100 people attended each meeting. Topics included: weed control, transition planning and value-added marketing.
- Completed a needs assessment survey for Hampshire and Mineral Counties in the fall of 2020. This increased the number of contacts for WVU Extension and will guide event planning for 2021.
- Organized a Beef Trans4 educational program, which provides a well-organized method for analyzing cow-calf operation finances, for four local producers in August of 2020.
- Provided Pesticide Recertification Classes for private and commercial applicators in November and December 2020.
- Served as a new member on the WVU Extension Service Women in Agriculture team. Currently serving as a mentor for four Annie's Project participants and co-led the monthly meetup in December 2020 with Gilmer County ANR Agent Daisy Bailey.

### **Families and Health**

- The WVU Extension Service Youth Family Nutrition Program secured grant funding so that 600 Hampshire County students were able to participate in several pop-up farmers markets, where each child learned about the importance of shopping and consuming local fresh produce, and were able to take home produce from a local farm to their families. 450 mini greenhouse kits were delivered to schools, helping children learn how to grow microgreens.
- Four Active Pathways were installed at four Hampshire County Schools, with three more scheduled to be installed in spring 2021.
- Over two-hundred families in Hampshire County received seeds through the Grow This: WV Garden Challenge.
- Local grandparents increased in knowledge related to effective family communication, parenting in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, family relationships, and self-care and stress management through participation in the WVU Extension Service Kinship Care Program.