

# **Berkeley County Annual Report 2020**

### **Putting Knowledge to Work!**

West Virginia University Extension works to provide "solutions in your community" through key programs and resources including agriculture, environment and natural resources, 4-H youth development, food and nutrition, health and wellness, financial planning and home gardening. These research-based programs and services are available to all residents of Berkeley County thanks to the tremendous support of our community members, local organizations, volunteers and local partners – the Board of Education and County Council.

# Highlights

- 4-H STEM kits were developed to provide hands-on learning for students during COVID. More than 7,500 complete kits were sent to schools in the community.
- The 2020 Berkeley-Jefferson Extension Master Gardener classes were held virtually with 14 adults successfully completing the program.
- The Family and Community Development agent successfully presented Sleigh the Holidays! Maintain Campaign program to 163 people.
- The Nutrition Outreach Program conducted virtual classes for 50 participants, thereby facilitating healthy eating habits and quality family interaction as well.

## **4-H/Youth Development**

#### Tri-County Camping

• Even with a virtual format, we were able to reach more than 250 members through "Camp in a Box." Each box consisted of over 10 activities spanning healthy living, citizenship, STEM and life skills.

#### Service Projects

- Berkeley County 4-H completed three major projects:
  - The school supply drive brought in more than \$5,000 worth of supplies that were distributed to 53 classrooms across the county.
  - The annual toy drive brought in 439 items that were given out through various community programs and schools.
  - $\circ~$  The tie-dyed hero masks project provided frontline workers with 250 masks to brighten their day.

#### School-based Learning

- We highlighted our partnership with the Berkeley County Board of Education by providing resources to nearly 53 teachers.
- 17 in-class sessions were held in January and February, and then multiple virtual and pre-planned activities while schools were shut down.

#### Berkeley County Youth Fair

• We collaborated with the Berkeley County Youth Fair to provide a virtual experience for the community! With over 30,000 views, our online capabilities concluded with a livestock sale that brought in more than \$275,000.

#### **Community Clubs**

• Berkeley County currently offers more than 20 4-H club options in our community. With locations

throughout the entire county, they meet in schools, churches and other community venues.

## **Agriculture and Natural Resources**

#### **Extension Master Gardener Program**

- The 2020 Berkeley-Jefferson Extension Master Gardener classes were held virtually with 14 adults successfully completing our program.
- Held a tomato-tasting contest with Master Gardeners as the growers due to COVID-19.
- 24 Master Gardeners provided 1,419 hours of volunteer hours, and they completed 369 hours of continuing education.

#### Agriculture Education Dinner Meetings

• Three educational dinner meetings were held covering transition planning, value-added cattle marketing and weed control with a total of 88 people attending and providing feedback via evaluations.

#### **Pesticide Education Programs**

• More than 50 private applicators attended the programs and earned credits for license renewal. We also provided information on how producers needing credits for renewal could access online programs for recertification.

#### Food Safety Grower Training/Farmers Market

- Conducted a virtual West Virginia Senior Coupon Training and aided farmers market producers in letting people know that they were open and willing to safely serve the public during the pandemic.
- We also worked with a local nursery to grow transplants for the farmers markets, so they would have fresh produce earlier in the season.

### Family and Community Development

#### Community Educational Outreach Service

- Berkeley CEOS started 2020 with 82 members and 6 community clubs. Notable achievements for the year include:
  - Cookies for COVID: Members baked more than 80 dozen cookies that were then delivered to frontline workers with a note of gratitude and support.
  - STEM Kits for Kids: Members assembled 1,000 kits for distribution to school children in Berkeley County.
  - 1,500 books read, 1,800 hours of participation in the Health Motivator program and 2,500 volunteer hours served.

#### Sleigh the Holidays! Maintain

• The Sleigh the Holidays! Maintain campaign was designed to motivate healthy choices during the holidays while adhering to WVU's guidelines regarding COVID-19 safety precautions. 163 people registered and participated in the challenge that encouraged both individual and team participation.

#### Dining with Diabetes

• The Dining with Diabetes series was offered virtually in October and November with 13 adults completing the four-session class. Recipes from the Dining with Diabetes curriculum were virtually demonstrated and students received electronic copies of the recipes each week.

#### **Building Partnerships**

• The Family and Community Development agent works with and continues to build partnerships with numerous agencies, including Healthy Berkeley Coalition, West Virginia Healthy People Healthy Places, WVU Medicine, WVU Health and Human Services Collaborative, Behavioral Health Workgroup, Telamon Corporation, Eastern Panhandle Empowerment Center and more.

#### Family Nutrition Program

- Prior to March 2020, the Family Nutrition Program for adults provided in-person nutrition education and hands-on healthy cooking opportunities to 20 participants at Bethany House, Day Report Center and Telamon.
- The instructor presented programs to a diverse population including limited-income families,

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individuals in drug recovery, and disabled and homeless individuals.

• During COVID, the instructor assisted with the development of a virtual curriculum for adults and conducted virtual classes for 50 participants.