Wirt 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 Wirt 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

- **STEM Teaching Efforts** – 24 programs were delivered to 1,763 youths. A $4,000 grant was received from the Parkersburg Area Community Foundation for STEM supplies.

- **Increased Participation in 4-H Activities** – Camp participation rose by 93.4% to 118 youths in 2019. 86 youths attended all-age camp and 32 youths attended our inaugural three-day Cloverbud day camp.

- **Increased Nutrition Programming** – 11 adults participated in our Dining with Diabetes program and showed significant changes in behavior and knowledge.

- **Energy Express Summer Reading Program** – Our site was fully enrolled with 40 youth participants, 33 of which attended at least 50% of the time.

- **Wirt County Youth Livestock Program** – 96 youths exhibited 156 livestock entries, with a sale totaling $198,077.

4-H/Youth Development

*Camping*

- **Wirt County 4-H All-age Camp** – 86 youths attended – 33% were first time campers. 74.4% of older campers and 80.6% of younger campers gave the camp an “A” rating. A post-survey showed campers thought adults cared about them, learned about ways to help their community, felt could go to a leader if they had a problem and felt a sense of belonging.

- **Cloverbud Day Camp** – 32 Cloverbud campers attended this new camp. 100% of parents surveyed indicated their child felt physically safe and at ease with other campers. 100% also wanted to send their child next year and would recommend this camp to other families.

- **Volunteers** – All-age Camp had 29 adult volunteers and Cloverbud day camp had 14 adult and youth volunteers. Together, they contributed over 1,550 hours to the program, valued at $39,469.36.
4-H School-based Programs

- **The Sky’s the Limit** – 28 fourth grade students completed five one-hour sessions of growth mindset development through engineering curriculum. The teacher noted a significant increase in student engagement throughout the program as well as positive behavior changes.

- **STEM Programming** – Presented 24 STEM programs, resulting in 43 different sessions delivered to 1,763 youth contacts. This included one national and three state programs.

Traditional 4-H Programming and Clubs

- **Community Clubs** – 136 4-H members completed the 2018-19 4-H club year in six community 4-H clubs. This is a 41.6% increase from the 2017-18 club year.

- **State Events** – Seven Wirt County 4-H members attended a state or national event in 2019.

Energy Express

- **Funding** – Secured $25,972 for the 2019 Energy Express program, including $7,595 in local fund and in-kind donations.

- **Youth Impact** – Wirt County hosted one Energy Express site that was fully enrolled with 40 youths. 33 of those youths attended at least 50% of the time. Each day, every child received two nutritious meals and four hours of reading, writing, art and drama instruction. There was an average of 3.1 months gain in reading achievement, compared to only 0.5 months in children who didn’t attend the program.

- **Service Impact** – Six college-aged AmeriCorps members contributed over 300 hours each to the Energy Express program. 24 youth and adult volunteers contributed 587 hours of service to the program, worth approximately $14,930 in volunteer time.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

- **Youth Livestock** – 96 youths, 81 of which were 4-H members, exhibited 156 livestock entries at the Wirt County Fair. This was a 14.7% increase from 136 animals in 2018. The sale totaled $198,077. Each exhibitor received an average of $2,063 to put toward expanding their livestock projects or furthering their education after high school.

Families and Health

- **Dining with Diabetes** – 11 adults participated in the fall Dining with Diabetes session. Participants gained knowledge in meal planning and diabetes management. Participants increased the number of days they exercised, number of fruits and vegetables they ate, and how often they reviewed food labels following the class.

- **Spring Valley Food Pantry** – 18 sessions focused on getting people to taste and prepare nutritious meals using fruits and vegetables were delivered to the Spring Valley Food Pantry in 2019. Each session had an average of 54 participants and 60% to 75% of participants tried the recipes during each session. This was made possible by a $1,500 grant from the Sisters Health Foundation.

- **Kids’ Pop Up Market** – 375 students at Wirt County Primary Center received $4 each to shop for fresh, local produce brought to their school by six local growers. $1,500 of fruits and vegetables were provided to the students. Parents and teachers reported the students had an increased interest in trying new foods, especially fruits and vegetables.