

About WVU Extension

WVU Extension serves all 55 counties where we build prosperity, enhance educational opportunities, improve health and wellbeing, and create purpose for our fellow West Virginians. Programs include agriculture and natural resources; youth programming, including 4-H, STEM and Energy Express; community engagement and service-learning opportunities (on- and off-campus); and family and community development programs that focus on health, safety, tourism and economic development.

Improving lives and livelihoods



for all West Virginians

4-H and Youth Development

- WVU Extension **funds** and **delivers** **West Virginia's** state **4-H** program.
- 4-H program reaches more than **42,600** youths annually via in-school programming, camping, clubs, STEAM, special interest groups and other activities.
- Our Energy Express summer reading and feeding program reached 1,608 West Virginia children in rural and low-income communities in 2022, and, of those who were assessed, **97% improved or maintained** their reading comprehension skills.
- WVU Extension faculty provide a **career readiness** program for 8th graders in seven counties.
- WVU Extension delivers safety education and outreach for shooting sports, **ATV training** and other outdoor adventure programs around the state.

Jackson's Mill

- WVU Jackson's Mill is home of the **nation's first state 4-H camp**, which was held more than 100 years ago.
- The Mill plays hosts to thousands of events and activities each year, including **4-H camps, livestock competition/sales**, ATV safety training, Boys State, family reunions, weddings, art festivals, field trips, vaccination clinics and more.
- Visitors can participate in a variety of programs for **youths and adults**, including historic, outdoor, and Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) **education**.
- Substantial **infrastructure investments** worth millions of dollars have been made to the Mill in recent years, including upgrades to all cottages, completion of a state-of-the-art STEAM center, additional outdoor recreation investments, yurt camping, water/sewer system and more.



Agriculture and Natural Resources

- U.S. Senators Shelley Moore Capito and Joe Manchin recently announced more than **\$4.7 million** in USDA funding to WVU and WVU Extension for a livestock systems management project, which will provide **financial and technical assistance** to Appalachian farmers and agricultural producers to **support adopting climate-smart practices**, as well as strengthen marketing initiatives for grass-fed beef products.
- WVU Extension Master Gardeners provide nearly **35,000 hours** of volunteer service, an **\$800,000** value, each year to West Virginia communities.
- Our Integrated Pest Management team provided more than 1,000 West Virginians with **science-based recommendations** to control plant diseases, weeds and unwanted insects.
- In 2022, 4-H and FFA livestock projects likely contributed more than **\$4.5 million** to assist youths in pursuing **post-secondary education**.

Center for Community Engagement

- The WVU Center for Community Engagement, part of WVU Extension, partnered with The Ohio State University to pack and deliver more than **130,000 meals** to West Virginia families facing food insecurity.
- The CCE provides opportunities to advance knowledge of **civic engagement** in higher education.
- The CCE assesses community need and supports the community partners in integrating **volunteer needs** into **academic learning** experiences.

Family & Community Development

- Fire Service Extension trains more than **2,000 professional and volunteer firefighters** each year, as well as provides a week-long camp for junior firefighters.
- Safety & Health Extension provides workforce training for West Virginians, including serving as one of the **top OSHA Training Institute Education Centers in the nation**.
- Family & Community Development faculty provide **Dining with Diabetes** courses to help individuals address this chronic disease.
- Tourism specialists and county agents work with community members to **grow rural tourism** opportunities in the state through programs such as Monongahela Forest Towns, Elk River Trail and **free courses** in sustainable rural tourism.

Family Nutrition Program

- The Family Nutrition Program is comprised of numerous nutrition, food and physical activity projects designed to **help limited resource families**, youths and adults improve their health.
- The Grow This! garden challenge helps people grow food, share tips and ideas, and support gardening in our state. Last year, more than **25,000 free seeds** were distributed around the state.
- Programs like Kids' Market @ the Store and Rethink Your Drink help West Virginia children make **healthier food choices**.

For more information, visit extension.wvu.edu or contact Dr. Jorge H. Atilas, WVU Dean of Extension & Engagement

Information in this impact statement is based on fiscal year 2021-2022 data.

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