

# Ritchie 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 Ritchie 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

- Implemented distance and virtual learning opportunities for youth involving STEM activities, crafts and SPIN (Special Interest) events
- Energy Express returned with outreach throughout the county
- Participated in invasive species research projects with the ANR unit
- In cooperation with West Virginia State University along with Doddridge County launched Healthy Grandfamilies program
- Provided the community with information on the COVID-19 pandemic

### 4-H/Youth Development

#### Camping

• 38 youths in Tyler & Ritchie County participated in virtual camping experience "Camp Connect" which included physical activity, virtual programs and online lessons.

#### 4-H & Youth Distance Learning

- Distributed 150 microgreen growing kits
- 150 porch projects on growing vegetables distributed
- Distributed 60 laying chicks and materials to county youths for poultry education
- One Energy Express that reached 35 youths and nine mentors with lessons on reading,
  STEM activities, meals and educational television programming
- End of the year drive-thru 4-H award event

Traditional 4-H Programming and Clubs

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- 140 youths enrolled in seven county clubs
- Shooting sports club with 35 youth members
- 34 youths enrolled in Cloverbud program
- 36 members participated in youth livestock sale with 49 livestock projects being sold
- 41 youths in 4-H participated in a virtual livestock show

#### Special Interest Programs

- Created regional SPIN (Special Interest) events with Tyler and Doddridge county
- Healthy Grandfamilies program implemented in Ritchie and Doddridge Counties to aid grandparents that are raising grand children with resources, education, support and tutoring of youth

#### Highlights

- Supplied 1,500 mask lanyards (4-H recruitment) to Ritchie County School students and staff
- Distributed Cloverbud porch packets to youth for monthly programming
- Created social media outreach through web pages and multiple Facebook pages

### Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Assisted with research project regarding invasive grass species in pastures
- Provided soil testing and direction to local producers
- Private applicator pesticide recertification training
- Assisted with Regional COOP Calf sale of 207 head of feeders generating income of \$127,702.20 for 41 local producers
- Worked with the Ritchie County Master Gardener group to provide a "Take and Make" wreath project with virtual learning video
- Assisted Ritchie County Farm Bureau with technology resources and guidance to implement their annual youth speech contest