Taylor County Annual Report 2018

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 Taylor 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

- The 4-H Lego Robotics First Lego League team received Champions Award at the regional qualifier and was selected to compete in the state FLL tournament.
- The 4-H Air Rifle program had two members score in the top 20 at regional qualifiers and had the opportunity to participate in the state air rifle competition at the WVU Rifle Range.
- The Central/Taylor County Calf Pool had six producers from Taylor County participate. They received an estimated net increase in their farm income of $8,034 by participating in the program.
- 43 individuals participated in the summer walking challenge and reported walking 9,480 miles during the program.

4-H and Youth Development

Camping

- 79 youths attended Taylor County 4-H camp June 24 through 28, held at Camp Towles. Campers had the opportunity to participate in a variety of classes. During assemblies, they learned about the monarch butterfly, made placemats that were donated to the Taylor County Senior Center to use with their homebound meals program, and made chew toys for dogs that were donated to the Taylor County Humane Society.

4-H School-based Programs

- 311 youths completed at least one of the 4-H National Youth Science Day “Code Your World” activities at Anna Jarvis Elementary School and Taylor County Middle School.

Traditional 4-H Programming and Clubs

- There were six traditional 4-H clubs with 148 youths enrolled during the 2017 to 2018 club year.
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Special Interest Programs

- The 4-H Lego robotics program offered a First Lego League team with six members and a Jr. FLL team with four members. The FLL team received the Robot Performance Award and Champion’s Award at the regional qualifier and moved on to compete in the West Virginia state FLL competition.

- The spring air rifle program had 18 youths participating. Two members qualified to participate in the 2018 State Air Rifle Competition, which took the 20 highest scoring shooters from regional competitions held around the state in January.

- The fall air rifle program hosted 27 youth participants.

- The Summer STEM Vista program provides STEM-based programs for youths in the county during an eight-week period in the summer. 262 individual youths participated in STEM activities with a total of 890 contacts during the summer.

- Google CS First is a computer coding program using Scratch from MIT. This program is offered as an after-school club at Taylor County Middle School. There were seven youths registered in the spring of 2018 and 15 youths in the fall of 2018. The program consists of eight lessons with one lesson per week.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

- 79 individuals were assisted with agriculture-based questions by phone, email, office visits and on-site visits. More were assisted with questions at meetings and events that do not get recorded and counted in the above number.

- 36 4-H and FFA youths participated in the Taylor County Jr. Livestock program. They completed 118 hours of face-to-face training on a variety of topics related to livestock production. Members sold 76 project animals for a total of $123,475. $9,655 of that total were donated animals that benefited the 4-H program, FFA and a 4-H/FFA scholarship fund.

- The Central/Taylor Calf Pool had six Taylor County producers participate with 128 calves. An evaluation of the calf pool program indicated that when prices, reduced commissions and costs were calculated, producers received an estimated net of $62.77 per head more than they would if they had sold through a traditional sale barn. This resulted in an estimated benefit for Taylor County producers of $8,034.56. The whole pool included 287 calves from throughout central West Virginia for a total net benefit of $18,014.99 to the region.

Family and Community Development

- Nutrition Outreach Instructor Jeanette Coole had 56 individuals participate in nutrition education programming during the 2017 to 2018 reporting year.
The Taylor County Summer Walking Challenge, cosponsored by Taylor County PATCH and coordinated by WVU Extension Service, had 43 people participate. They reported walking 9,480 miles from June 1 through September 7.