

Taylor 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 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 Air Rifle program had four members who qualified for the State 4-H Air Rifle Competition. One member recorded the top score and qualified for the National Air Rifle Competition.
- The 4-H and FFA Livestock Show and Sale was offered virtually in response to COVID-19. 46 youths participated with 99 exhibits.
- Calf pool participants increased their net income by an estimated \$5,554 through participation.
- 325 individuals participated in the Grow This: West Virginia Garden Challenge.

4-H/Youth Development

Camping

- 24 members and eight Cloverbuds participated in the Taylor County 4-H CampURL in June. Campers had the option to engage in both virtual and offline activities. Classes offered included cooking, cross-stitch nametags, air rifle, bugs and folk dancing. Afternoon STEM sessions were also held as well as assemblies with the WVU Mountaineer Mascot, Adventure WV and NASA.

4-H School-Based Programs

- 196 youths participated in Game Changers activities conducted at Taylor County Middle School as part of the National 4-H Stem Challenge.

Traditional 4-H Programming and Clubs

- There were four traditional 4-H clubs with 156 youths during the 2019-2020 club year.

Special Interest Programs

- The Air Rifle program had 28 youths participate. Four members qualified to participate in the 2020 State Air Rifle Competition, which took the 20 highest scoring shooters from

regional competitions held around the state in January. One member received the top score at the state tournament and qualified for the National 4-H Air Rifle Competition.

- 16 members participated in the Teen Leader program in 2020. They received a \$150 grant from the West Virginia 4-H All Stars to construct and install accessible activity panels at Taylor County playgrounds in partnership with the 4-H Robotics Team. The Teen Leaders have continued to meet monthly via Zoom during the pandemic.
- Energy Express was offered in a virtual environment and in cooperation with Little Feet Daycare. Twenty-seven youths met the 50% attendance enrollment level.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

- The Central/Taylor Calf Pool had six Taylor County producers participate with more than 88 calves. An evaluation of the calf pool program indicated that when prices, reduced commissions and costs were calculated, producers received an estimated net of \$63 more per head than they would if they had sold through a traditional sale barn. This resulted in an estimated benefit for Taylor County producers of \$5,544. The whole pool included 254 calves from 16 farms and a total net benefit to producers of \$15,994.
- The annual show and sale held at the Taylor County Fair Grounds was held as a virtual event. 46 youths participated, exhibiting 99 entries, which sold for \$89,523. An additional \$2,228 was raised for the Jr. Livestock Association and Taylor County FFA from donations and resells.

Families and Health

- “Stepping on the Blues” holiday walking challenge ran for six weeks starting November 16 and ended December 28. This challenge was focused on keeping up steps during winter, but also focused on mental health. 30 people signed up and 15 completed the entire challenge with the other 15 participating in portions. The 15 that finished the challenge reported 2,936,284 steps, which is roughly 1,391 miles.
- The Grow This: West Virginia Garden Challenge program in Taylor County had 325 participants. In the past, this program has been funded by the WVU Extension Service Family Nutrition Program, but because of an overwhelming statewide registration, it exceeded their capacity. The WVU Extension Service Taylor County office funded the supplies and postage for 223 of the Taylor County participants. The seeds were microgreens, peas, butternut squash and tomatoes. The Taylor County office also provided the 325 participants with lettuce and spinach seeds for fall planting.
- Mini Grow Kits were a spin-off of the Grow This challenge focused on children. With the partnership of Planned Approach to County Health Coalition, Taylor County Family Resources, Partners in Prevention and UniCare, 350 microgreens kits, 350 tomato kits and 150 potato kits were distributed. These kits were distributed during the school meal pick-ups and community food distributions at Taylor County Family Resources.
- The end of 2020 saw the finalization and rollout of virtual Eating Smart Being Active classes, virtual Teen Cuisine courses and virtual Nutrition Education Aimed at Toddlers lessons. The whole Family Nutrition Program unit shared all the counties to help everyone learn to use the new systems, and in December 2020, there had already been four Taylor County participants.