Taylor 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 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 the Champion’s Award at the regional qualifier and was selected to compete in the state First Lego League tournament.
- The 4-H Air Rifle program had four members who scored in the top 20 at the regional qualifiers and placed third among the senior teams in the state air rifle competition.
- The Central/Taylor County Calf Pool had seven producers from Taylor County participate. They received an estimated net increase in farm income of $6,771 by joining the program.

4-H/Youth Development

Camping

- 89 youths attended Taylor County 4-H camp in June 2019 at Camp Towles. Campers had the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities, where they learned about pollinators, made placemats for the Taylor County Senior Center to use with their homebound meals program and were visited by a K-9 officer from Pruntytown Correctional Center.

4-H School-based Programs

- 183 youths participated in Code Your World activities, and 42 participated in Game Changers activities conducted at Anna Jarvis Elementary School and Taylor County Middle School. Both programs are part of the National 4-H Youth Science Day activities.

Traditional 4-H Programming and Clubs

- There were five traditional 4-H clubs with 151 youths during the 2018-19 club year.

Special Interest Programs

- The 4-H Lego Robotics program offered a First Lego League team with six members and two First Lego League Jr. teams with a total of 10 members. The FLL team received the Champion’s Award at the regional qualifier and moved on to compete in the West Virginia state competition. The FLL team’s project on playground activity boards was presented to the Taylor County Commission, who donated funds to build two additional sets for
placement at playgrounds within the county, which will be constructed and installed in 2020.

- The air rifle program had 27 youths participate. Four members qualified to participate in the 2019 State Air Rifle Competition, which took the 20 highest scoring shooters from regional competitions held around the state in January.

- The Summer STEM Vista program provided STEM-based programs for youths in the county during a ten-week period in the summer. 312 individual youths participated in STEM activities with a total of 600 contacts during the summer.

- Google CS First is a computer coding program using Scratch from MIT. This program was offered as an after-school club at Taylor County Middle School. Seven youths participated in the spring of 2019.

### Agriculture and Natural Resources

- 44 4-H and FFA youths participated in the Taylor County Jr. Livestock program. They completed 208 hours of face-to-face training on a variety of topics related to livestock production. Members sold 90 project animals for a total of $109,150. An additional $4,065 benefited the 4-H program, FFA and a 4-H/FFA scholarship fund through the resell of donated animals.

- The Central/Taylor Calf Pool had seven Taylor County producers participate with 125 plus calves. An evaluation of the calf pool program indicated that when prices, reduced commissions and costs were calculated, producers received an estimated net of $54.17 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 $6,771. The whole pool included 271 calves from throughout central West Virginia for a total net benefit of $14,680 to the region.

### Families and Health

- Nutrition Outreach Instructor Jeanette Coole had 36 individuals graduate from nutrition education programming during the 2018 to 2019 reporting year with a 43% positive change in nutrition knowledge when shopping and preparing food.

- The Taylor County Summer Walking Challenge, co-sponsored by Taylor County PATCH and coordinated by WVU Extension Service, had 29 people participate. They reported walking 2,895 miles from June 2 through July 13. One youth participant was considered obese and lost weight, improved their health and continued to update the office regularly on their progress.

- The Holiday Wellness and Walking Challenge was a six-week challenge based on maintaining weight and physical activity during the holidays. 17 individuals participated – all reported maintaining their weight and four reported losing 3 or more pounds during the challenge. Participants also reported walking 730 miles during the challenge.