Putnam 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 Putnam 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

- 127 youths attended the annual all-ages Putnam County 4-H camp with 30 adults serving as mentors, chaperones and instructors during the five-day residential camping experience. Campers learned life skills ranging from cooking and fishing to riflery and candle making, as well as team-building exercises.
- The Putnam County Fair had 172 livestock exhibitors whose sales contributed $273,154 to the local economy.
- The Putnam County family and community development program reached 2,138 participants in 2019 with 53 classes on literacy, child welfare, cooking skills and safety, diabetes education, food preservation and healthy relationships.
- With the addition of Buffalo Elementary in October 2019, over 2,200 Putnam County students from seven schools were introduced to a garden-based learning curriculum and good nutrition.

4-H/Youth Development

- 32 4-H’ers toured the West Virginia Capitol Building and were welcomed by Supreme Court Justice Evan Jenkins in the chambers, where they were able to sit in on a case.
- Over 60 4-H’ers received training to hold leadership positions in their clubs at officer training in 2019. 15 adult volunteers with experience in those leadership roles conducted the training.
- Eight youths completed the Charting program, which culminated at county camp where they received their Charting pin, symbolizing their willingness to participate in a program that encourages self-discovery and awareness.
- 172 4-H and FFA members sold over $270,000 in total livestock auction sales at the 2019 Putnam County Fair.
127 campers attended Putnam County 4-H Camp, where they learned teamwork, leadership and healthy life skills.

52 young people attended Southern District Horse Camp at Camp Virgil Tate.

**Energy Express**

Two sites of Energy Express were conducted in Putnam County last year with an average of 26 children attending the George Washington Elementary Site and 32 attending the Lakeside Elementary site. For five weeks, these children engaged in reading, art and dramatic play and received a nutritious breakfast and lunch.

**Agriculture and Natural Resources**

The Southern Bull Test generated $147,000 for local producers through the sale of 33 bulls and 43 heifers.

14 producers received the Beef Quality Assurance certification.

Putnam and Mason counties delivered over 116 continuing education credits (1,157 contact hours) in agriculture and natural resources programming to West Virginia producers.

Programming in Putnam and Mason counties provided 250 hours of pesticide training and 29 hours in nutrient management to local producers.

4-H members created over 45 pollinator habitats across Putnam and Mason counties.

10 new West Virginia Extension Master Gardeners were trained in 2019. Collectively, the Putnam County Master Gardeners volunteered 868 hours in 2019 to serve the community.

**Garden-based Learning Program**

Collectively, the seven garden-based learning schools in Putnam County have received over $4,000 from the Farm to School program for the produce they have sold and consumed in their cafeterias since 2014.

74 principals and teachers from seven schools filled out our garden-based learning evaluation survey this year. Teachers thought that our garden-based learning curriculum supports STEM and FOSS hands-on learning objectives.

Survey respondents indicated that “the students are excited to tend the garden and take ownership of their responsibilities in the high tunnel” and “are trying new foods and now understand why fresh produce is a healthier choice.”

**Family and Community Development**

Taught 23 students in two classes with the cooperation of the Department of Labor in the Apprenticeship for Childhood Development Specialist. Eight students graduated with the level of Journeyman last spring 2019 and 15 were scheduled to graduate in spring 2020.

Multiple cooking classes were conducted in the county. Participants learned cooking techniques, nutrition and food safety.