

Wood County WVU Extension Service 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 Wood 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

- **9,000** youths and **4,500** adults served.
- **\$174,000+** generated by involvement in WVU Extension Service educational programming.
- More than **10,000** volunteer hours (\$272,000 value) provided to our local community.
- Faculty members authored columns, articles and social media posts to share research and offer practical advice for parents, farmers and community members during the pandemic, reaching more than **30,000** people.

4-H and Youth Development

Camping

- 137 youths and 20 volunteers participated in Wood County's virtual summer camps (93% learned new skills; 97% learned something new about STEM; 100% learned ways to help their community).
- \$2,500 grant/donations provided all youth camp materials free of charge.
- 36 Wood County 4-H members participated in state and national 4-H camps/leadership events.
- \$75,000 in grants and donations successfully secured for Wood County 4-H Camp facility upgrades.

In-School Enrichment Programs

- 3,125 middle-school youths participated in school-based educational programs focused on lessons related to healthy living, substance abuse prevention service and citizenship.
- 44 high school freshmen participated in *Botvin Life Skills*, a 15-week substance abuse prevention curriculum.

Traditional 4-H Programming and Clubs

- 321 youths participated in 4-H Clubs with 56 of those youths participating in after-school clubs.
- 827 youths participated in STEM in-person and virtual activities with 97% learning new skills.
- 811 youths received DIY take-home STEM activity kits and lessons.
- 94 still projects were exhibited locally and 93 blue ribbon projects from were exhibited virtually at the state level.
- 29 volunteers participated in virtual organizational leadership trainings from Wood, Wirt, Calhoun and Roane counties. 100% of volunteers understood COVID-19 and youth protection guidelines.
- 25 youths participated in virtual state 4-H project workshops.

Energy Express Summer Reading Program

- 74 students participated virtually in Energy Express – 65.7% of students maintained or improved reading. Participants also received meal boxes and 384 books to add to their personal libraries.
- \$68,723 in local, state and federal funds were secured for this program.

- 17 college students earned money for college and gained valuable workforce skills.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Gardening and Horticulture

- 48 gardening enthusiasts received horticulture education at the Master Gardener Spring Webinar.
- Master Gardener Program volunteers worked 670 hours (valued at more than \$18,224) on various community projects, including the new “Heritage Gardens at the Henderson Hall” service project grew vegetables and herbs.
- “Fridays at the Library” gardening education program held at Vienna Library reached more than 116 adults with gardening knowledge. 75% reported adopting new practices as a result of these four workshops.
- “The Backyard Gardener” newspaper horticulture column connected with 26,000 people and was a Northeast Regional finalist for the 2020 National Association of County Agriculture Agents Communications award.
- “Extension AgTalk,” radio program offered daily tips about farming, horticulture and commodity markets. The radio program reached nearly 6,000 people each time it aired.
- Applied Horticulture Research-Completed “WV Sweetcorn Variety Trial”.

Livestock, Forages, Agriculture Advocacy

- 450 farmers, homeowners, and gardeners received unbiased, expert advice through calls, walk ins, and farm visits.
- 268 farmers and gardeners participated in Wood County Farmers’ Short Course-10-week educational program in Mid-Ohio Valley area.
- WV Bull and Heifer Evaluation (Southern Bull Test) – 2020 The WV Young Sire Program evaluated 73 bulls and 76 heifers at the Jack Crank Experiment Station Farm – 37 bulls and 41 heifers sold for a total of \$181,750.00.
- Certified Grassland Professional – Certified Forage and Grassland Professional with the American Forage and Grassland Council (AFGC).
- Trained 58 West Virginia producers, gardeners and service providers through the Mid-Ohio Valley AgZoom program to deliver educational content for producers and pesticide applicator credits and CEUs.
- Worked with statewide state pesticide recertification program training 284 farmers, industry workers and business owners for continuing education credits.
- Secured \$3,000 grant from DuPont for Bee City U.S.A. pollinator education program in Williamstown to provide funds to assist with the creation of an educational pollinator garden.

Youth Agriculture

- 4-H members learned about keeping accurate health records as part of the Ham and Bacon Project/Sale that generated more than \$16,200 for Wood County youth.
- Trained 93 youths in quality assurance for food safety and improved care and management of animals in the Quality Assurance training. Participants showed a 26% increase in knowledge gained.

Family and Community Development

Health/Nutrition/Food Safety:

- 14 adults participated in Dining with Diabetes program. Wood County piloted the first virtual program. Most reported behavior changes including increased physical activity, using the provided recipes and healthier eating.
- 18 students learned cooking techniques and healthy recipes at cooking schools held at Ohio Valley University.
- 199 students and faculty from Fairplains Elementary learned proper hand-washing techniques.
- Speed handwashing video created and shared statewide (7,000 views).

- 30 CEOS members from across WV learned about 2021 Health Motivator Initiative.

Family Relationship Education:

- 10 adults at Recovery Point participated in relationship education.
- 12 grandparents raising grandchildren participated in the Healthy Grandfamilies.
- Served as a Calling Coach for Community Calling Initiative – coached five WVU students who performed weekly check-ins with eight senior citizens.

Community Partnerships:

- 150 patients received fruits/vegetables, recipes, and physical activity prompts via FARMacy program, a partnership provides patients with \$10 Community Supported Agriculture bags over the course of 10 weeks.
- State and local representative for Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialists. Transitioned the program to a virtual format with five students enrolled in Wood County.

Family Nutrition Program

- \$8,000 in grants from PACF for area Pop Up Kid's Farmers Markets, which served 1,690 students fresh fruits and vegetables and nutrition education at five elementary schools and one church.
- 45 students completed a 6-week series of Teen Cuisine at Hamilton Middle School.
- 180 elementary school students completed a 6-week series, Show Me Nutrition.
- 10 students completed a 10-week Cooking Skills class at VanDevender Middle School.
- 325 students at Gihon Elementary participated in Food of the Month taste testing with yogurt berry parfaits, emphasizing the benefits of dairy and calcium for our health.
- 80 youths learned how about the Rethink Your Drink program at a local 4-H club, and through water drinking challenge kits and incentives provided to Energy Express and school students.
- 265 Microgreen Growing Kits, which included seeds, soil, education materials and recipes, were distributed to local elementary students.
- 35 youths participated in cooking and nutrition classes during summer 4-H virtual camp.
- Painted Active Pathways for four elementary schools to promote physical activity and allow students to enjoy the playground and walking track during COVID (800 students served).
- Packed and distributed over 3,000 Grow This! seed packets and information for West Virginia families to help promote gardening and healthy eating.
- 40 community members from Community Resources received 20 weeks of recipes and shopping ideas.
- Provided shopping assistance and meal preparation tips for people using the Thrive Food Pantry.
- 14 families participated in Virtual Nutrition Classes for six weeks.
- Assisted in providing information, ideas and assistance to 25 people every week for 20 weeks in Pleasants County and worked with Wood County to bring more FARMacy programs to the community.

Wood County Extension faculty and staff worked together to provide programming to thousands of residents in Wood during the pandemic. Faculty and staff continued to serve on numerous community coalitions and committees providing support and local expertise. Faculty also contributed to state and national research projects that guided their work in the community and served on state and national committees tackling issues like diabetes education, youth life skills, workforce development, diversity and inclusion, gardening and horticulture, substance abuse prevention and healthy living. Programs were delivered in-person when permitted and virtually.