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

- **6,000** youths and **1,400** adults served.
- **$522,517+** generated by involvement in WVU Extension Service educational programming.
- More than **18,000** volunteer hours ($395,392 value) provided to our local community.

4-H/ Youth Development

*Camping*

- 232 young people and 74 volunteers participated in Wood County’s four summer camps where they learned about tobacco, alcohol and drug prevention; STEM; career exploration; life skills development; environmental stewardship; and healthy lifestyles.
- **$1,500** in scholarships provided to youths with limited resources to assist in the cost of camp.
- 35 Wood County 4-H members participated in state and national 4-H camps/leadership events.
- **$8,000** in grants secured to assist with camp programming, and **$136,000** in grants/donations secured for camp facility upgrades.

*In-School Enrichment Programs*

- 2,459 youths participated in school-based educational programs focused on hands-on, educational lessons related to STEM, healthy living, substance abuse prevention and citizenship.

*Traditional 4-H Programming and Clubs*

- 335 youths participated in 4-H clubs with 81 participating in after-school groups.
- 114 still projects were exhibited at the county fair and 96 blue ribbon projects were displayed at the State Fair of West Virginia. Total project completion rate **75%**.

*Energy Express Summer Reading Program*

- 123 students participated in Energy Express at four sites in Wood County where they gained an average 3.1 months in broad reading achievement. Participants also received 4,700+ meals and 612 free books.
- **$82,423** in local, state and federal funds were secured for this program.
Agriculture and Natural Resources

**Gardening and Horticulture**
- Master Gardener volunteers worked 670 hours (valued at $17,000+) on various community projects, including “Heritage Gardens at the Henderson Hall;” educated 86 gardening enthusiasts; and conducted a record plant sale.
- “Fridays at the Library” provided gardening education to 100+ adults. 82% reported adopting new practices.
- “The Backyard Gardener” horticulture newspaper column connected with 26,000 people and was a national finalist for an award at the national county agriculture agents.
- “Extension AgTalk,” radio program reached nearly 6,000 people (each airing), providing tips about farming, horticulture and commodity markets.

**Livestock, Forages, Agriculture Advocacy**
- Provided expert advice for 400+ farmers, homeowners and gardeners including calls, walk-in clients, and farm visits.
- 200+ farmers and gardeners in Mid-Ohio Valley area participated in the Wood County Farmers Short Course, a10-week educational program.
- Evaluated 89 bulls and 95 heifers for genetic data as part of the West Virginia Bull and Heifer Evaluation. The event grossed $147,700 (31 bulls and 43 heifers sold to state beef producers).
- Trained and certified 186 state beef producers to improve livestock health, increase profits and provide a high-quality product as part of the Beef Quality Assurance Program.

**Youth Agriculture**
- 372 students from seven local schools participated in our “Lawn and Garden Safety” program as part of Progressive Agriculture Farm Safety Days.
- Trained 106 youths in quality assurance via our 4-H Youth Livestock Program. 179 completed livestock projects with 94% completing project books. Sale grossed $262,000.

**Family and Community Development**

**Health/Nutrition/Food Safety:**
- 580 students learned about proper handwashing with 75% demonstrating proper technique.
- 84 residents participated in Dining with Diabetes and most reported behavior changes including increased physical activity, healthier eating and lower A1cs.
- 48 people received basic nutrition education and reported knowledge gain including menu planning, grocery shopping, and basic cooking skills.

**Family Relationship Education:**
- Partnered with Recovery Point and Children’s Home Society of West Virgin to teach parenting skills to foster parents and those in recovery.
- 7 grandparents raising grandchildren completed the Healthy Grandfamilies series and meet monthly for a support group. Secured a $5,000 grant from PACF to fund program.

**Community Partnerships:**
- 100 patients received fruits/vegetables via FARMacy program, a partnership with Coplin Clinic, which provides patients with five $10 vouchers for 10 weeks. The group reduced BMI by 5%.
• Two new teachers were trained, and three students graduated from the Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialists program.

Family Nutrition Program

• $6,600 in grants from PACF and Promise 3 Health Start for area pop-up farmers markets; 2,272 students received fresh fruits and vegetables and nutrition education at Boys and Girls Club, five elementary schools and one middle school.
• 2,237 students participated in nutrition education programs at six elementary and two middle schools, 4-H camps and Energy Express.
• 162 adults learned nutrition education as part of SNAP-Education.
• $1,000 donation from Unicare provided class supplies for adult basic nutrition education.