

Wetzel 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 Wetzel 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 Wetzel County Farmers Market adapted to changing protocols to have the highest yearly revenue in seven years. Sales totaled more than \$25,000 with SNAP matching program totaling \$6,850.
- Wetzel County 4-H and FFA Livestock Program transitioned to an online auction, selling 23 animals for a total of \$41,050.
- 60 youths from all Wetzel County elementary schools participated in six weeks of summer learning with Energy Express. 10 young adults received excellent professional development and funding for their college educations while serving as mentors and volunteers.
- A safe and successful merger of Wetzel and Marshall counties to form Mason Dixon Camp URLinked for 45 campers in a blend of Zoom and independent activities.

4-H/Youth Development

Camping

- Held a successful teen overnight camp for 45 Marshall and Wetzel county 4-H members, where the youths helped plan the Mason Dixon 4-H Camp merger.
- 45 campers attended Mason Dixon Camp URLinked, which consisted of daily Zoom sessions on topics such as healthy eating, STEM, mindfulness, and even included a “campus visit.” Campers completed 257 home-based activities including crafts, cooking, nature, service activities, a 4-K and STEM.

Community Programming

- Hosted four kids pop-up events at the farmers market with STEM activities and take-home kits.
- Devann Fox, STEM Ambassador, packed 1,500 take-home kits, provided online instruction during camp to 45 youths and supported the farmers market.
- 600 STEM kits were distributed to 4-H families and at community events.

Traditional 4-H Programming and Clubs

- 55 4-H members enrolled in Wetzel County 4-H clubs.

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- Extension agents from Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall and Wetzel counties created the NOPAN Challenge to engage youths in 4-H activities. A total of 72 members participated in synchronous or asynchronous activities with more than 200 youth engagements recorded.
- Provided 50 “Porch Packets” for Cloverbuds and 4-H members throughout the summer and fall.
- Led statewide Earth Science Cloverbud clubs and statewide project book workshops for Bite Into Beef (13 youths in attendance) and Pet Pals (22 youths in attendance).

Energy Express

- Continued support from Wetzel County Schools provided over 30% of funding for the six-week summer literacy program.
- With virtual and remote programming, we were able to serve 56 youth at all four county elementary schools. Mentors provided weekly packets of books and literacy activities plus phone calls and a computer-based reading program.
- Energy Express staff supported Wetzel County Schools meal delivery which provided 32,785 breakfasts and 32,785 lunches throughout the summer.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Promoted local foods and healthy eating at Wetzel County Farmers Market, reaching approximately 1,400 individuals throughout the summer.
- Coordinated with three area farmers to support a group-growing plan for the Tyler County FARMacy.
- Partnered with area agricultural organizations to support local farmers and home gardeners. Many questions are answered every year for county residents, and they are provided with research-based resources at no cost to them.

Community Development & Economic Development

- Continued work with the Wetzel County Farmers Market to increase customers and yearly revenue for local vendors, resulting in the highest yearly revenue in seven years. Sales totaled more than \$25,000.
- Secured funding for a SNAP matching program, which included P-EBT benefits. \$6,850 in revenue from this program went to local farmers.
- Led development of the “My Hometown Is Cool” statewide lesson series and pitch competition.
- Continued a strong partnership with Wetzel County Center for Children and Families, which consisted of shared space, cross-promoting of programming and shared programming.