Wetzel 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 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

- **Kids Markets** - In partnership with Wetzel County Schools and the Wetzel County Farmers Market, a farmers market experience and $4 of produce were provided to all students at each county elementary schools.
- **STEM Teaching Efforts** – 21 programs were delivered to 405 youths. This included support from EQT for 10 days of a STEM Ambassador in Wetzel County.
- **Wetzel County 4-H and FFA Livestock Program** – 42 youths exhibited 55 livestock entries, with a sale totaling more than $111,027.
- **Energy Express** – Children from across the county participated in six weeks of summer learning with Energy Express, and 10 young adults received excellent professional development and funding for their college educations while serving as mentors and volunteers.
- **Camping** - A safe and successful Wetzel County 4-H camp for 85 full-time campers was staffed by locally trained and vetted volunteers.

4-H/Youth Development

**Camping**

- 125 youths participated in another safe and successful week of Wetzel County 4-H camp and Cloverbud day camp.
- Classes were again the campers’ favorite part of camp, including archery, outdoor cooking, kayaking, basic survival skills, STEM, fishing and more.
- Over 30 volunteers completed WVU vetting and trainings to staff the week of camp.
- A record number of 11 Wetzel 4-H members participated in state 4-H camps and events.
- Wetzel County Extension Agent Mollie Toppe served as assistant director for WVU 4-H STEM/Agri-STEM Camp along with one Wetzel County youth participant.
4-H School-based Programs

- In 2019, in-school lessons were focused on STEM, computer coding and personal finance.
- Taught the Build a Budget program to 144 youths through 11 in-school courses.
- Education on produce and local farming accompanied all Kids Farmers Markets at Wetzel County elementary schools.

Traditional 4-H Programming and Clubs

- More than 100 4-H members enrolled in Wetzel County 4-H clubs.
- There were four traditional clubs, as well as the Wetzel County 4-H and FFA livestock club.
- Increased attendance at officers training and STEM Night activities.

Energy Express

- Continued support from Wetzel County Schools provided over 40% of funding for the six-week summer literacy program.
- Youths at Long Drain School and Paden City Elementary School participated in the program. On average, students showed positive changes in letter-word identification, reading fluency, passage comprehension and broad reading – the statewide average increase is equal to 3.1 months.
- 67 children and youth volunteers were provided with over 1,984 free summer meals.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Promoted local foods and healthy eating at Wetzel County Farmers Market.
- Coordinated with area farmers to support a group-growing plan for the Tyler County FARMacy program and kids markets at Wetzel County elementary schools.
- 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 Wetzel County Farmers Market to increase customers and yearly revenue for local vendors.
- Secured funding for SNAP customer and Health Right patient market vouchers. Redemption of these vouchers made up 15% of market sales in 2019.
- WVU Extension Service in Wetzel County continued a strong partnership with Wetzel County Center for Children and Families.