Pleasants County Annual Report 2018

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 Pleasants 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

- Pleasants County continues to have a great relationship with WVU Extension Service. The local office offers quality programming for a wide range of ages.

4-H and Youth Development

4-H

- There are seven clubs located throughout the county: Arvilla, Calcutta, Hebron, Middle Island, Nine Mile, Schultz and St. Marys.
- 120 youths enrolled for the 2017 to 2018 year.
- 35 adult volunteers served in various capacities (club leaders, assistant leaders, project leaders, camp staff) from various places (one from Florida, one from northern Ohio) in the 2017 to 2018 summer to continue serving the youths of Pleasants County.
- 107 youths attended county camp in July 2018 (~90% of our youths take part in 4-H’s premiere program).
- 20 youths attended a state camp.
- Seven youths earned their charting pin at county camp.
- Four youths received All Star pins at a state camp.
- 112 projects were exhibited at the Pleasants County Agricultural Youth Fair. Project completion is important to us, as the 4-H slogan is “learn by doing.”
- 20 4-H youths participated in the Livestock Show and Sale. 4-H sales totaled $17,298.55.

Robotics

- 13 youths participated in robotics where they experienced real-world applications of science and math concepts.
- Robotics encourages teamwork, creativity, leadership and respect.
- Pleasants County WVU Extension Service partnered with the library as a location for holding practices.
- A robotics demonstration was held for a local CEOS group. Youths assisted the group in coding the robot.


A robotics demonstration was held at a summer reading program, and 10 participants took part in a class that was offered at camp.

**Energy Express**

- The five-week Energy Express program addresses reading and summer nutrition, and accommodates the early start of school.
- 53 children participated in Energy Express. 265 books were put into the hands of children and 1,852 meals were served.
- Energy Express provided employment opportunities for local youths. Seven mentors, one community coordinator and one site supervisor worked at SMES.
- There were 63 volunteers consisting of 44 adults and 19 youths.
- Community service projects included painting the playground at SMES, packing healthy snacks for each participant to have during the weekend.
- Energy Express saw positive growth, according to the results from beginning of the year testing.

**Community Youth Programs**

- Pleasants County hosted two “Code Your World” events at the library, where 14 youths attended.
- 10 families attended Title I - STEM Night at St. Marys Elementary School.
- 280 youths and 10 adults participated in the “I Can...” series at Tyler Consolidated Middle School. The series addressed at-risk topics that middle school students face.

**Agriculture and Natural Resources**

**Pop-Up Farmers Markets**

- Four pop-up farmers market locations where held in the county: St. Marys Elementary, Belmont Elementary, Pleasants County Middle and county pre-kindergarten classes.
- 782 students participated in the pop-up farmers markets.
- A $4,000 grant was secured through the Elks National Foundation to support the program.
- Four local producers associated with the Pleasants Area Farmers Market supplied and “sold” produce.

**Family and Community Development**

**Community Educational Outreach Service (CEOS)**

- There are six CEOS clubs located throughout the county: Arvilla, Belmont, Hebron, Middle Island, Pioneer Community and Raven Rock.
- Pleasants County has 63 CEOS members.
- CEOS members participated in the Agricultural Youth Fair with a pie booth.
- CEOS members promoted breast cancer awareness with a wreath hanging and ceremony at the courthouse.

**West Virginia Healthy Children Project**

- The West Virginia Healthy Children Project aims to increase healthy eating and physical activity of families with young children in hopes of reducing the obesity rates of adults.
- Pleasants, Barbour and Gilmer counties were chosen by the CDC for this project.
- The program serves four pre-kindergarten classrooms, Little Helping Hands, and the new center that will open in March (formerly Jack and Jill).
West Virginia Healthy Children resources include trainings, free classroom supplies (nutrition- or physical activity-related), gardening supplies and healthy message magnets to send home, as well as t-shirts.

A “Taste the Rainbow” activity was held at SMES and BES.

Pleasants County WVU Extension Service secured funding for field trips to farms. They worked with the WVU Extension Service agent in Tyler County to implement agricultural programming.

Pleasants County WVU Extension Service delivered fresh produce to Little Helping Hands for about six weeks in late summer/early fall – FREE to families.

Pleasants County WVU Extension Service introduced new community components, including billboards, shopping cart messages, newspaper messages, flyers and handouts at health care facilities and pharmacies.

Community grants brought $17,110 to the county with projects at St. Marys Elementary School, Belmont Elementary School, Pleasants County Parks, City of St. Marys and Pleasants County Library. Belmont Elementary, the city, and the library have received funding during two of the three grant cycles.

Additional grants awarded include $5,000 each for Pleasants County Parks and City of St. Marys.