Pocahontas 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 Pocahontas 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

- Pocahontas County has a small cooperative livestock market started in the 1940s with the help of WVU Extension Service. In 2018 the market served more than 200 customers and marketed more than $1.12 million in livestock. Because of the number of contacts, this market reaches nearly 65% of agriculture producers in the county. Additionally, the market and the WVU Extension Service collaborated with veterinary services to provide opportunities for producers to receive pregnancy checks of cattle and complete breeding soundness exams with their bulls.

- More than 140 youths were involved in the 4-H program in Pocahontas County and participated in educational projects, community service, camping, shooting sports, visual presentations, public speaking, poster/photo exhibitions, leadership training, project fairs, livestock shows/sales and the Ham, Bacon and Egg show/sale.

- Promoting healthy lifestyles continues to be a major programming effort with initiatives such as Walk 100 Miles in 100 Days, Love Your Heart, nutrition, food safety and physical activity presentations available for the community.

4-H and Youth Development

- 84 youth (65% of total 4-H enrollment) and 25 counselors attended county 4-H camp in 2018. Additionally, 22 youths participated in state camps.

- Numerous camp repairs and improvements were completed through the efforts of the Pocahontas County 4-H Foundation and Leaders’ Association.
• The Pocahontas County 4-H Camp facility continues to host the National Youth Science Camp (held annually since 1963), as well as many state and local groups.

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• 65 4-H’ers completed 131 project books/record guides in a wide variety of project areas.

• 33 youths completed 63 animal science projects and showed their animals in livestock shows. Total sales of the county 4-H/FFA Livestock Sale was $31,213.

• 45 youths participated in the ham/bacon and poultry projects and sold their products for a total of $24,309. The financial gain from these projects is often used by youths to increase their own agricultural endeavors and for college savings.

• 43 youths completed online Quality Assurance Training designed to increase their knowledge and skills with regard to livestock quality assurance, animal husbandry and food production.

• WVU Extension agents served as superintendents at the State Fair to help supervise livestock, skill-a-thon events and 4-H exhibits.

• More than 80 youths participated in the county’s Shooting Sports program. Two youths traveled to compete in regional and state shotgun meets around the state.

• Two new 4-H Clubs were established -- the Pocahontas County Youth Livestock Club and Marlinton Elementary School Pioneers Garden Club.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

• 210 customers were able to market 1,741 head of livestock through the Pocahontas Producers Cooperative Stockyards with total value more than $1,127,992 and reaching more than 65% of farmers in Pocahontas County.

• In 2018 more than 150 soil tests, involving 4,000+ acres of agriculture land, were performed.

• Held three regional artificial insemination hands-on trainings where more than 30 area producers received instruction on how to artificially inseminate cattle.
County farmers participated with the state grassland team, which produced national publications on winter feeding area research in 2017 and 2018.

- Disseminated data through dinner meeting program in the Greenbrier Valley.

- Held three educational dinner meetings for more than 100 producers where they earned 300 hours or more of continuing education for pesticide licenses. (2009-2019)

- Produced segment of statewide pesticide video on forest pesticides annually viewed by approximately 500 private applicators throughout the state. (2016-2018)

- Wool producers in the Greenbrier Valley marketed more than 25,000 lbs. of wool as part of the statewide wool pool program. (2009-2019)

- Pocahontas County Farmers Market has three market locations where 20 producers market their produce, meat and eggs throughout the county and region.

- Held regional FSMA training for produce growers where producers from four counties became certified in food safety and handling practices. (10 producers received certification)

- Coordinated the Dramas, Fairs & Festivals program for the County Commission, which distributes funding to multiple organizations. County residents are exposed to opportunities in cultural enrichment which would not be possible without this funding. In 2018 $84,800 was distributed to 19 events.

- Extension agent wrote and received $161,283 in grant funding for Discovery Junction, a community park to be constructed in Marlinton.

**Family and Community Development**

- 119 county participants walked 20,330 miles in the 6th Annual Walk 100 Miles in 100 Days Challenge, and 95 people succeeded in walking 100 miles or more.

- 80 adults learned about heart health through an educational display and heart healthy breakfast at the courthouse and distribution of Love Your Heart info to CEOS members.

- 46 Community Educational Outreach Service (CEOS) members in three clubs worked to improve their skills in leadership, personal development, nutrition, food safety, family life and community service.

- Approximately 25 people received assistance in food preservation and canner testing.