

Ohio 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 Ohio 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

- 943 youths were directly engaged in Extension Service programming focused on STEM, health, nutrition, citizenship or leadership activities.
- The coordination of an Arbor Day Celebration resulted in 140 new trees and the creation of a Tree Board by the City of Wheeling.
- An estimated 1,000 families were given fresh produce or seeds through the Family Nutrition Program's initiatives.
- 19,420 meals were distributed to families in partnership with the Ohio County Schools Summer Foods Program.
- 6 Ohio County 4-H members were featured on the March 22, 2021 episode of Barnwood Builders.

4-H/Youth Development

Traditional 4-H Programming and Clubs

- 157 youths participated in nine clubs during the 2019-2020 year.
- Members completed 84 self-guided 4-H project books with exhibits 56 of those earned a blue ribbon with 44 still displays exhibited at the state level.
- Six members were featured on the March 22, 2021 episode of Barnwood Builders.
- Two members were selected to represent West Virginia at national 4-H events.

Camping

• 72 youths participated in leadership, STEM, health and civic-focused activities as part of Camp URLinked, which was delivered in a virtual format.

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- Analysis from a statewide survey of virtual camps shows the following:
 - Campers felt supported and part of a community.
 - Campers identified that the camp helped them stay positive.
 - Campers learned how to maintain and build relationships during an era of social distancing.

COVID Response

- 1,942 boxes of food were distributed over 11 weeks of coordinating a summer food site in partnership with Ohio County Schools.
- 75 youths participated a series of four project workshops that were conducted online to assist 4-H'ers in completing projects on leadership, civic and health topics. Additional workshops were coordinated by other county offices, offering 42 other topics.
- More than 1,000 at-home STEM kits were packaged and delivered to youths.
- More than 400 masks were distributed to 4-H members.
- Extension Agents from Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall, and Wetzel Counties created the Northern Panhandle 4-H Challenge to engage youths in lieu of club meetings. 72 members participated in synchronous and asynchronous activities with over 200 recorded youth engagements.

School Enrichment Programs

- 442 students at Triadelphia Middle School learned about the dangers of e-cigarettes
 - Students reported a 22% increase in understanding that vapor is not water vapor.
 - There was an 8% increase in students' beliefs that e-cigarettes are dangerous.

There was a 2% increase in students' likelihood to abstain from e-cigarette use.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Local Foods

- Agents counseled 46 local farmers, including three start-up farms.
- Support and guidance was provided for the new Highlands farmers market.
- Online training was provided to market vendors. It covered tips for success and available support.
- An online training was offered for the Farmers Market Nutrition Program, so vendors could continue to accept senior coupons.
- 50 episodes of the Extension Calling podcast was recorded and produced. It aired locally on WWVA and WWOV.

Local People

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- Agents responded to more than 350 unique contacts and provided ongoing guidance for 78 community members on multiple gardening and natural resource inquiries.
- Agents taught 45 hours and hosted 60 hours of educational opportunities to 137 and 176 participants.
- Ohio County Master Gardeners provided 643 volunteer hours and support to more than 500 community members.
- Agents developed cooperative programming through the Healthiest Cities Grant project: Edible Mountain

Local Environment

- Employees helped guide and assist the City of Wheeling in adopting a tree board to improve the health of Wheeling's Urban Forest Ecosystem. Initial board members were identified and secured.
- A socially-distanced Arbor Day Tree planting event was coordinated. It engaged 52 volunteer families to participate in improving their city parks and planting more than 140 trees.
- Seven West Liberty University students made their campus a better place by planting 36 trees through a service-learning projected guided by Dr. James Wood.

Families and Health

Family Nutrition Program

- 253 Ohio County students in grades 2-4 participated the Family Nutrition Planning program's Show Me Nutrition curriculum. Participant surveys reported the following findings::
 - 89% of students increased their knowledge and skill for choosing foods that meet dietary guidelines.
 - 52% of students increased their ability to handle food safely.
 - 48% of students learned how to improve their physical activity practices.
- 88 students at Triadelphia Middle School learned about safe and nutritious food choices during the Health and Wellness Conference

Public Health

- 333 children and 415 adults received seeds packed by WVU Extension to grow their own produce through the Grow This! Challenge. Additional citizens were provided seeds in partnership with Grow OV.
- More than 50 families were provided local produce at each of two Kids Farmers Markets in partnership with Keys4 Healthy Kids at King's Daughters Daycare.