Harrison 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 Harrison 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

- In 2018, 325 Harrison County youths attended the weeklong, residential county 4-H camp held at WVU Jackson’s Mill.
- Harrison County Master Gardeners completed 900 hour of volunteer community service and 300 hours of continuing education courses.
- The WVU Extension Service agent for family and community development in Harrison County reached 200 participants with diabetes education in 2018.

4-H and Youth Development

Activities:

Camping

- 325 youths attended Harrison County 4-H camp at WVU Jackson’s Mill. This weeklong, residential 4-H camp is among the largest county camps in the state. Cloverbud youths ages 5 to 8 years old attend day camp at the Veteran’s Memorial Park and Splash Zone for a week-long introduction to 4-H camp.

4-H School-Based Programs

- Youths received in-school and after-school programming from WVU Extension Service staff. These lessons provided hands-on Learn by Doing lessons that focus on STEM, healthy living and citizenship. Harrison County teachers request lessons and partnership annually.
- Four Energy Express sites increased reading skills serving 150 Harrison County youths during the five-week program. Site locations include Lumberport, North View, West Milford and Wilsonburg communities. Each site also provided breakfast and lunch for participants and other community youths.

Traditional 4-H Programming and Clubs
Harrison County has more than 60 fully vetted and trained adult volunteers working with 16 community 4-H clubs. These clubs provide four-fold – head, heart, hands and health – development activities that focus on the national 4-H mission mandates in STEM, healthy living and citizenship. All clubs provide multiple service projects to their communities on an annual basis. Club members represent Harrison County on the state and national level by attending camps, conferences and events annually.

**Special Interest Programs**

- Four special interest 4-H clubs meet for in-depth experiences in the following subject/content areas: STEM, shooting sports, culture and cuisine, and travel. Hundreds of youths are exposed to 4-H through this quality, content specific programming annually.

**Agriculture and Natural Resources**

**Master Gardeners**

- 25 active Master Gardeners completed approximately 900 volunteer service hours to the community and 300 hours of continuing education.
- There were eight individuals who took the Harrison County Master Gardener training class in 2018.
- Members helped with various projects throughout the county, including:
  - Eight community gardens at the following locations: Fort New Salem, Shinnston community garden, Harrison County Prevention Partnership community garden, St. Mark’s Lutheran Church community garden, Harrison County Parks & Recreation gazebo container gardens, Healthy Joints West Milford, Lost Creek memorial garden and Notre Dame memorial garden.
  - Seeds-to-Go library project,
  - People’s Hospice memorial garden cleanup at Veteran’s Memorial Park, and
  - Harrison County Master Gardeners spring clinic and garden fair.

**Youth Agriculture**

- WVU Harrison County Extension Service faculty and staff assisted with the annual Harrison County livestock show in August for youth participants to complete their 4-H projects. There were four youth participants who exhibited animals including feeder steers, heifers and a market lamb.

**Community Involvement**

- From July to December 2018, the WVU Harrison County Extension Service office received 50 calls for assistance with a variety of agriculture and natural resources-based topics around the county. Site visits to nine individuals were completed to assist with requests.
- In December 2018, a pesticide recertification training was held to allow private pesticide applicators to earn credits to maintain their certification.
- Regional educational dinner meetings were held throughout the months of January, February and March. Each of these dinners offered an agriculture-related educational program for producers in the area.
Family and Community Development

- The Harrison County Community Educational Outreach Service members volunteered 46,000 hours of their time for community service outreach. They were awarded the top position in the state.

- 3,000 brown bags for veterans were collected in partnership with Dominion Energy, Steptoe & Johnson, and Camp Dawson’s Mountaineer Challenge Academy. These bags of food items were given to the Clarksburg VA hospital to be distributed to patients traveling to Pittsburgh for medical procedures, homeless veterans and family members in the hospice department.

- Diabetes education continued in Harrison County and reached 200 participants through Dining with Diabetes classes, Marvelous Mondays hands-on cooking classes, hands-on cooking classes with 4-H members and hands-on cooking classes with youths participating in the children’s camp at Camp Dawson.

- Financial education classes reached 53 participants with 75% of participants intending to do something differently after hearing the presentation.

- The WVU Extension Service Family Nutrition Program reached 1,327 third through fifth graders in Harrison County Schools with nutrition and physical activity education and 57 adults with healthy lifestyle education.