Hardy County Annual Report 2018

Putting Knowledge to Work!

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 Hardy 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

- The Energy Express literacy and nutrition program had 48 youth participants this summer, with seven AmeriCorps members doing more than 1900 service hours.

- 4-H STEM programming took place at camp with 126 youths served with various curriculum from college-aged STEM ambassadors. The 4-H Code Your World curriculum was implemented by Hardy County Schools, with 520 children learning about artificial intelligence, coding and animation across 22 classes in three schools.

- Annie’s Project was delivered to 14 local, women farmers. It emphasizes female-to-female learning and positive mentorship to help women interested in farming better to do so.

- The bull evaluation program at Wardensville continues to be successful, with 69 buyers from five states purchasing bulls this year. Gross sales totaled $321,400, averaging $3,611 a head – an increase of $368 a head from 2017.

4-H and Youth Development

Camping and Club Programming

- 93 volunteers helped 4-H clubs and camping programs.
- 18 teen leader volunteers for camp programs provided 1,440 hours of service.
- Youths attended state camping opportunities such as Young Adults Conference, Older Members Conference, Dance Weekend, Teen Leader Weekend, Alpha I and Alpha II.
- More than $5000 in scholarship donations sent campers to state events.
- Total of 184 campers participated in all Hardy County 4-H camps.
- Camp improvements were made through many community partnerships.
- Hardy County law enforcement officers participated in camp programming to foster positive relationships with youths.
- Dental health supplies and oral health education provided to participants during camp registration.
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- More than 4,300 meals served to youths and adults at camps. All of them follow USDA nutritional guidelines.

**Energy Express**

- One Energy Express site in Hardy County served 48 youth participants from 8 different communities with an average daily attendance rate of 74%.
- 16 total volunteers helped with the program.
- Successfully hired one site supervisor for two years and seven AmeriCorps members.
- 1900 hours served by those AmeriCorps members.
- 240 take home books distributed to the children and families in the program.
- More than 2,085 meals were served to youths in the program, AmeriCorps members, volunteers and other community youths since the site served as a summer open feeding site. Program participants also had backpacks filled with nutritious items sent home over the weekend to round out nutrition needs.

**STEM Education**

- The STEM Ambassador program at Hardy County Younger 4-H camp and Hardy County Cloverbud Day camp served 126 youth.
- Continued robotics program growth facilitated by public school faculty with materials acquired through Board of Education and the WVU Extension Service Hardy County grant collaboration.
- The 4-H Code Your World curriculum was implemented by Hardy County Schools, with 520 children learning about artificial intelligence, coding and animation across 22 classes in three schools.

**4-H Projects/Competitions**

- 233 total projects were completed, including:
  - 43 different project book topics.
  - 137 completed exhibit hall projects, including:
    - 88.5% blue ribbon winners, 9.5% red ribbon winners, and 2% white ribbon winners with $363 in premiums.
  - 43 Cloverbud exhibits with $86.00 in premiums.
  - 96 completed animal projects.
- Hardy County had 35 poster contest participants, 50 photo contestant participants and three State 4-H Day participants.

**Family & Health**

**Venison 101**

- We continue to teach at Hunting and Fishing Days, and our information has become a fixture there. More than 10,000 people attend the event, and the program has educated well over 75 individuals.

**Agriculture and Natural Resources**
The area wool pool is another service activity I was involved in which took in around 14,000 pounds of wool from about forty producers.

two sheep and goat sales clerked for the WVPSBA. Sale totals were approximately $100,000 combined.

**Youth Agriculture**

- Organized and worked multiple youth agriculture events at the West Virginia State Fair, West Virginia Sheep and Goat Show and Sale and the Hardy County Fair.
- Acted as the Superintendent at the WV State Fair in the horse department, which included class schedules, public relations and barn/award organization.
- Helped develop and implement halter training for 4-H horse camp volunteers and also taught sessions during the camp. More than 50 youths attended the camp.
- Coached multiple junior and senior Beef Expo judging teams in Hardy County, which consisted of two practices a week from January to April. Students learned; forage and feed identification, EPDS, equipment ID, feeder calf grading and meat cut ID.
- Coached a Livestock judging team, horse judging team and poultry judging team for Hardy County youths. At Youth Day at Poultry week, Hardy County took first place in junior division and second in senior division. Hampshire took first place in FFA divisions.
- Hosted and organized the poultry judging contest during the week of the Poultry Festival in Moorefield WV
- Held agricultural demonstrations for the Moorefield Vocational Agriculture classes which included poultry judging and sheep raising.
- Hosted and taught two lamb labs and co-taught shearing classes for WVU Potomac State College Animal and Veterinary Science 251 class.
- Freeze branded bulls for the Wardensville Bull Test. Over the course of a week taught more than 100 kids from Grant, East Hardy and Moorefield and Hampshire County how to administer freeze branding and about performance testing of bulls.
- Youth Day at Poultry Week was a success with 76 kids from five counties attending, with 20 youth participants in the BBQ contest.

**Annie’s Project**

- This program was delivered to the Potomac Highlands area with 14 participants and 12 graduates.
- We also had five of the Annie’s participants go to the West Virginia Women in Agriculture Conference that had never been before.

**AI of Livestock**

- This was a huge success, and we had over 50 attend. We are planning three hands-on sessions for 2019.

**Soil Fertility Survey of Poultry Litter Amended Fields in Chesapeake Bay Counties and Litter Promotion Program in the North Central Counties in WV**
This grant project is in its first year and was awarded funding through Region 9, a group in the eastern panhandle that identifies, applies for and administer certain federal and state grants, and provides a regional focus in regard to multiple programs undertaken on an area-wide basis. We applied for a grant to help balance the potential excess nutrients, from poultry litter, in the eastern panhandle with the lack of nutrients in the central part of the state.

**West Virginia Bull Evaluation Program at Wardensville**

- The program is in its 51st year, but it is the nation's first bull evaluation program to measure residual feed intake.
- WVU Hardy County Extension Service faculty serve on the advisory committee and help collect performance data. In 2017, we took in 194 bulls and evaluated them from January to March, and 166 bulls completed the evaluation program. This year we had 133 bidders register from five states.
- Gross sales totaled $321,400 for an average of $3,611 a head, an increase of $368 a head from 2017. The 89 bulls sold included 77 Angus, seven Herefords and five Simmentals averaging $3,606, $3,286 and $4,140, respectively.
- Sixty-nine buyers from five states purchased bulls. Sixty bulls were purchased by West Virginia residents from 18 different counties. Twenty two bulls sold out of state with one bull going to Maryland; three to Pennsylvania, four to New York, and 14 to Virginia.