

# Hardy 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 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

- Due to the pandemic, many slaughterhouses were closed in the Midwest. There was a large supply of hogs ready for slaughter and no way to process them. Many market-ready hogs were being euthanized to make room for the next crop of piglets. The West Virginia COVID Market Hog Project brought some of the hogs to West Virginia to be used. More than 200 individuals bought the hogs to be slaughtered and used by their families. Potomac Highlands brought in and sold more than 800 hogs in Moorefield and Elkins.
- Hardy County WVU Extension Service partnered with West Virginia Mask Army and more than 30 community volunteers to produce more 7,000 masks for medical facilities, community organizations, home health workers, essential employees and at-risk community members.
- Camp URLinked was provided to 40 youths in June. Participants received take-home packets that included a variety of STEM, creative arts, health and personal development activities and materials.

## 4-H/Youth Development

### *Camping*

- Camp URLinked was provided to 40 youths in June. Participants received take-home packets that included a variety of STEM, creative arts, health and personal development activities and materials.

### *4-H School-based and Virtual Programs*

- 445 youths were reached through STEM programs, such as take-home kits, LEAP into Science and Sky's The Limit.
- Virtual Cloverbud and SPecial INterest (or SPIN Clubs) were provided as a state-level effort. 119 youths were involved in these multisession programs.
- Development and distribution of "Lunch Lessons," a literacy program provided through social media, reached 6,590 viewers via Facebook.
- 156 young adults participated in Student Leadership Education receiving credits related to leadership, diversity, equity, social responsibility and self-awareness.

### *4-H Contest Participation*

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## Hardy County Report 2020

- Members continued to engage in traditional 4-H contests, such as poster, photo, visual presentation, writing, project exhibits and Cloverbud exhibits. Hardy County had 142 county-level entries and 116 state-level entries. Those entries can be viewed at [extensioncommunity.wvu.edu/exhibits/s/home/page/welcome](https://extensioncommunity.wvu.edu/exhibits/s/home/page/welcome).

### ***Youth Livestock***

- Organized and developed three skill-a-thons to be used digitally.
- Trained 160 participants statewide in the Quality Assurance Program.
- Hardy County had 20 participants in four judging teams for poultry, stockman's, livestock, sheep and wool, and horses.
- The 2020 Tri-County Fair had 165 exhibitors for a total sale of \$159,600: 27 steers - \$71,050; 39 lambs - \$27,900; 59 hogs - \$39,800; 40 goats - \$20,850.
- 200 youths took home Potato in a Bag kits, which included seed potatoes, soil and instructions on how to grow the potatoes in the sack.
- Six youths competed in the animal safety challenges via Facebook, including the youths sending a video showing knowledge gained from the video on the animal information.
- 22 youths competed in the weed identifying challenges via Facebook including the youth sending a video showing knowledge gained from the weeds to be identified.
- Four youths joined the SPIN Club lesson held by Zoom on livestock subjects.
- More than 130 youths took home freeze-branding lessons for cattle to be used in their future cattle branding experiences.
- Three high school seniors toured the Virginia Tech campus and competed at the equine contest.
- One youth from Hardy County competed in the National Horse Bowl Competition.

## **Agriculture and Natural Resources**

### ***Farm Credit Beef Tour***

- 33 producers went on the Farm Credit Beef Tour in the Greenbrier Valley. They visited Buzz Foods, Ironsides Animal Health, Hawk Knob Cidery and Meadery and stayed the evening at The Greenbrier. The next morning, after having breakfast with the Commissioner of Agriculture, the group visited Perks Farm Dairy, Wilfong's Sheep Farm, and finished the tour in Beverly, West Virginia at Teters Farm.
- More than \$7,000 was raised by the Farm Credit Beef Tour Committee to keep costs to a minimum for the producers.

### ***West Virginia COVID Market Hog Project***

- Due to the pandemic, many slaughterhouses were closed in the Midwest. There was a large supply of hogs ready for slaughter and no way to process them. Many market-ready hogs were being euthanized to make room for the next crop of piglets.
- The West Virginia COVID Market Hog Project brought some of the hogs to West Virginia. More than 200 individuals bought the hogs to be slaughtered and used by their families. Potomac Highlands brought in and sold more than 800 hogs in Moorefield and Elkins.

### ***West Virginia Bull Evaluation Program***

- In 2020, the West Virginia Bull Evaluation Program at Wardensville took in 156 bulls from 22 consigners and evaluated them from January to March.
- The 2020-2021 WVBEP concluded with the 53rd annual sale held on Thursday, March 26. The program cataloged 88 bulls and sold 84 for a gross sale of \$293,800 or \$3,498/head.

### ***Army Special Forces Food Animal Husbandry***

- Only the top six to eight Special Forces medical sergeants and Special Operations independent duty corpsman candidates are awarded the opportunity to go to WVU's Health Sciences Center for a 24-day clinical medicine program.

- As part of the program, the candidates are exposed to 1.5-day modules in the handling and production of livestock species. This module is facilitated and co-taught at Wardensville.
- This year, the Hardy County Extension Service held 11 sessions with 66 individuals.

### Family Nutrition Program

#### *Food of the Month*

- Food of the Month programming was held at East Hardy Early Middle and Moorefield Middle School, reaching 869 students. The program helps kids and families learn more about foods that are healthy and mostly locally grown. The program was discontinued due to the pandemic.

#### *Tray Waste Study*

- The Tray Waste Study alternated between East Hardy Early Middle and Moorefield Middle Schools with 869 students. This was a pilot program inspired by a study from USDA where students' trays were weighed and their waste measured. The program was discontinued due to the pandemic.

#### *Public Education*

- Monthly public service announcements were aired multiple times daily on WELD and WQWV radio stations. The 2-minute PSAs were on a variety of health/nutrition and wellness subjects. The reach of both local stations is approximately 6,000 listeners every half hour.
- Multiple recipe demonstration and adult curriculum videos were created for Eating Smart Being Active.

#### *Microgreen Kits*

- 1,300 microgreen kits were assembled and distributed to all students in pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade in Hardy, Grant and Pendleton counties. The kits were distributed with the school meals.

#### *Grow This*

- In 2020, the Family Nutrition Program had 20,000 individuals statewide sign up for the Grow This free seed program—compared to 200 individuals the year before.
- The health educator assembled, sorted and mailed peas, squash, tomato and sunflower (microgreens) seeds to 574 families in Hardy, Grant and Pendleton counties.

#### *Active Pathways*

- Active Pathways were installed in 11 elementary schools in Hardy, Grant, Pendleton and Hampshire counties. \$1,000 was raised for the paint and supplies.

#### *Eating Smart, Being Active*

- Eating Smart, Being Active classes were held virtually statewide.

### Safety and Health

- Hardy County WVU Extension Service partnered with West Virginia Mask Army and more than 30 community volunteers to produce more 7,000 masks for medical facilities, community organizations, home health workers, essential employees and at-risk community members.

