

2022 Statewide Impact

Using trusted research and education, West Virginia University Extension is committed to improving the lives and livelihoods of all West Virginians. Our experts bring programs and resources to our communities to enhance prosperity, improve health outcomes and deliver educational opportunities throughout the state. **In fiscal year 2021-22, we engaged more than 193,622 adults and 94,166 youths.** With a focus on our land-grant mission, partnerships and collaboration, we look forward to continuing to serve our fellow citizens to create a stronger future for West Virginia.

Improving lives and livelihoods



for all West Virginians

Education

✓ WVU Extension partnered with state and federal agencies to host a Conservation Camp with a goal of helping shape environmental stewardship of young people and encouraging youth advocacy in nature conservation. **Eighty percent** of campers **increased** their **sense of environmental stewardship** and **91% improved natural resource conservation skills.**

✓ More than **34,000 West Virginia youths and adults** received **STEM educational resources** or

participated in STEM camps, trainings and school enrichment activities.

✓ Children in our Energy Express free summer reading and nutrition program went from being interested in reading 0–3 days per week to **4-7 days per week.**

✓ Approximately **23,100 West Virginia youths** participated in WVU Extension-led **4-H school enrichment** programming, and more than **4,300 youths** attended a residential **county 4-H camp.**



“I like that I could experience a hands-on learning with forensics. It’s my dream job.”
~ Eureka Girls STEM Camp participant

Health Care

✓ In a post-COVID world, 4-H programs—virtual and in person—are critical to keeping West Virginia youths connected. Participants reported engaging in activities around **social/emotional health, nutrition education** physical activity and **mental health** as important components of 4-H.

✓ *Be Wild, Be Wonderful, Be Healthy West Virginia* improved access to nutritional food and safe places for physical activity in Clay and McDowell counties to address chronic health issues. The program improved **access to healthy foods to 20% of the population** and **26% increased access to physical activity**.

✓ Our Kids Market @ The Store and Kids Farmers Markets offer **free fruits and vegetables** to children ages 2-17 in our West Virginia communities. **These programs improved mealtime behaviors and their willingness to try and eat more fruits and vegetables.**

Prosperity

✓ An economic assessment of the benefits of Energy Express, our **free**, 6-week summer literacy program, suggested a **cost savings** to parents/families **of more than \$1.2 million in childcare** and nearly **\$461,000 in feeding costs**.

✓ To improve college-going rates in West Virginia, our financial literacy team offered a free course to 296 high school students to learn about paying for college. As a result, **58% of students were motivated to complete the FAFSA form** and **73% indicated they will apply for financial aid to for post-secondary education**.

✓ Recreational and tourism opportunities are vital to our state's economic success. WVU Extension, U.S. Forest Service and Rural Development implemented the **Mon Forest Towns** to help enhance prosperity in these 12 communities. More than **\$7 million in grants** has been secured to enhance economic growth.

✓ Through increased virtual and in-person educational opportunities, WVU Extension experts **helped high tunnel producers increase production** of cool and warm season crops. Twelve producers reported a yield of **23,473 lbs. (50% increase over previous year)** at **an estimated total value of \$39,819 in income**.

✓ WVU experts provided marketing and education to increase profitability for West Virginia farmers, including youth. Through the adoption of prescribed livestock management practices, producers made **more than \$2.1 million in sales**. Engaging youth in the technical assistance program resulted in **\$30,600 in college scholarship funds**.

“With leadership opportunities, I have been able to be more responsible and have tried for other positions in other groups and clubs, as well using my leadership in 4-H as a reference. I’ve led and participated in many community service projects and have been able to become more helpful to others.” ~ 4-H club member



Visit extension.wvu.edu for more information.
WVU Dean of Extension & Engagement Jorge H. Atilas

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